First Syllable Sort

Look at how the first syllable ends.

5.2.A.ii "decoding multisyllabic words with closed syllables; open syllables; VCe syllable; vowel teams, including digraphs and diphthongs; r-controlled syllables; and final stable syllables;"

NAME _____ DATE _____

OPEN FIRST SYLLABLE

An open first syllable ends in a vowel. The vowel usually makes its long sound.

ze-ro

CLOSED FIRST SYLLABLE

A closed first syllable ends in a consonant. The vowel usually makes its short sound.

win-dow

1 SORT

8 items

First use the supplied syllable divisions and sound clues to decode each word: blend the syllables and read the whole word to a teacher or partner. Then circle OPEN or CLOSED for each word, then in Part 2 choose two words and explain whether a vowel or consonant ends the first syllable.

1.	mu-sic	OPEN CLOSED
2.	nap-kin	OPEN CLOSED
3.	lem-on	OPEN CLOSED
4.	ti-ger	OPEN CLOSED
5.	ba-con	OPEN CLOSED
6.	pic-nic	OPEN CLOSED
7.	hu-man	OPEN CLOSED
8.	la-dy	OPEN CLOSED

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new two-syllable word with an open first syllable and one new two-syllable word with a closed first syllable. Divide each word with a slash and label it. Blend and read both whole words to your teacher or partner.

OPEN _____

CLOSED _____

CHALLENGE

Write one two-syllable word that has an open syllable and a closed syllable. Divide the word, label each syllable OPEN or CLOSED, and explain your labels. Blend and read the whole word to your teacher or partner.

ANSWER KEY # First Syllable Sort

GRADE 5 · TEKS 5.2.A.ii

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	mu-sic	**OPEN**	The first syllable, mu, ends in a vowel.
2	nap-kin	**CLOSED**	The first syllable, nap, ends in p.
3	lem-on	**CLOSED**	The first syllable, lem, ends in m.
4	ti-ger	**OPEN**	The first syllable, ti, ends in a vowel.
5	ba-con	**OPEN**	The first syllable, ba, ends in a vowel.
6	pic-nic	**CLOSED**	The first syllable, pic, ends in c.
7	hu-man	**OPEN**	The first syllable, hu, ends in a vowel.
8	la-dy	**OPEN**	The first syllable, la, ends in a vowel.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **OPEN**: pi/lot, OPEN
- **CLOSED**: mag/net, CLOSED

Challenge: o/pen: o is OPEN because it ends in a vowel. pen is CLOSED because it ends in a consonant.

For Part 2, accept explanations that correctly identify what ends the first syllable. In Part 3, accept other correctly divided two-syllable words that match each category. Check actual whole-word reading and self-correction separately from category labels. Support the learner after an attempt. Accept natural pronunciation including reduced unstressed vowels. This meaningful open/closed subset does not claim every listed syllable type.