

Syllable Split Detectives

Use vowel sounds to choose the syllable break.

3.2.A.iv “decoding words using knowledge of syllable division patterns such as VCCV, VCV, and VCCCV with accent shifts;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

SPLIT AFTER THE MIDDLE CONSONANT

In a VCV part, split after the middle consonant when the first vowel is short.

planet, plan/et

SPLIT BEFORE THE MIDDLE CONSONANT

In a VCV part, split before the middle consonant when the first vowel is long.

paper, pa/per

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For each word, circle AFTER or BEFORE, then choose two words, add a syllable slash, and tell why you chose each split.

- | | | |
|----------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. lemon | ☐ AFTER | ☐ BEFORE |
| 2. tiger | ☐ AFTER | ☐ BEFORE |
| 3. hotel | ☐ AFTER | ☐ BEFORE |
| 4. camel | ☐ AFTER | ☐ BEFORE |
| 5. music | ☐ AFTER | ☐ BEFORE |
| 6. seven | ☐ AFTER | ☐ BEFORE |
| 7. robot | ☐ AFTER | ☐ BEFORE |
| 8. visit | ☐ AFTER | ☐ BEFORE |

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 VCV word for AFTER and one new VCV word for BEFORE. Mark each syllable break with a slash.

AFTER _____

BEFORE _____

CHALLENGE

Write a different VCV word. Mark the split, name its category, and explain which vowel sound helped you decide.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	lemon	AFTER	lem/on, the first e is short.
2	tiger	BEFORE	ti/ger, the first i is long.
3	hotel	BEFORE	ho/tel, the first o is long.
4	camel	AFTER	cam/el, the first a is short.
5	music	BEFORE	mu/sic, the first u is long.
6	seven	AFTER	sev/en, the first e is short.
7	robot	BEFORE	ro/bot, the first o is long.
8	visit	AFTER	vis/it, the first i is short.

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)

- **AFTER:** raven, rav/en.
- **BEFORE:** bacon, ba/con.

Challenge: My word is silent, si/lent, and it is BEFORE. The i says /i/, so I split before l.

For Part 2, accept any two correctly classified items if the student marks the correct slash and identifies the first vowel as short for AFTER or long for BEFORE. Part 3 and challenge answers may vary when the word, split, and category are correct.