

# First Syllable Detectives

Find out whether each first syllable is open or closed.

**3.2.B.i** "spelling multisyllabic words with closed syllables; open syllables; VCe syllables; vowel teams, including digraphs and diphthongs; r-controlled syllables; and final stable syllables;"

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## OPEN FIRST SYLLABLE

An open syllable ends with a vowel. The vowel usually has its long sound.

pilot, pi is an open first syllable.

## CLOSED FIRST SYLLABLE

A closed syllable ends with a consonant. The vowel usually has its short sound.

picnic, pic is a closed first syllable.

## 1 SORT \_\_\_\_\_ 8 items

Circle OPEN or CLOSED for the first syllable of each word, then choose two words and explain what letter pattern helped you decide.

1. napkin

OPEN

CLOSED

2. tulip

OPEN

CLOSED

3. paper

OPEN

CLOSED

4. basket

OPEN

CLOSED

5. dentist

OPEN

CLOSED

6. tiger

OPEN

CLOSED

7. velvet

OPEN

CLOSED

8. pumpkin

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.

OPEN \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**CHALLENGE**

Write a new two-syllable word with an open first syllable and a closed second syllable. Mark the syllable break.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PART 1 • SORT**

| # | ITEM    | CATEGORY      | WHY                                              |
|---|---------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | napkin  | <b>CLOSED</b> | The first syllable is nap, which ends in p.      |
| 2 | tulip   | <b>OPEN</b>   | The first syllable is tu, which ends in a vowel. |
| 3 | paper   | <b>OPEN</b>   | The first syllable is pa, which ends in a vowel. |
| 4 | basket  | <b>CLOSED</b> | The first syllable is bas, which ends in s.      |
| 5 | dentist | <b>CLOSED</b> | The first syllable is den, which ends in n.      |
| 6 | tiger   | <b>OPEN</b>   | The first syllable is ti, which ends in a vowel. |
| 7 | velvet  | <b>CLOSED</b> | The first syllable is vel, which ends in l.      |
| 8 | pumpkin | <b>CLOSED</b> | The first syllable is pump, which ends in p.     |

**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:** ruler, ru-ler
- **CLOSED:** sunset, sun-set

**Challenge:** o-pen

Sort answers are CLOSED, OPEN, OPEN, CLOSED, CLOSED, OPEN, CLOSED, CLOSED. For Prove It, students should name the first syllable and tell whether it ends in a vowel or consonant.