

Middle Letter Detectives

Use vowel and consonant patterns to find syllable breaks.

3.2.B.v "spelling words using knowledge of syllable division patterns such as VCCV, VCV, and VCCCV;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

BETWEEN

These words have a VCCV pattern, with two consonants between vowels. Divide between the middle consonants.

bas-ket

BEFORE

These words have a VCV pattern with a long first vowel. Divide before the middle consonant.

ho-tel

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Read each word and circle BETWEEN or BEFORE to show how you would divide it into syllables.

1. rabbit

BETWEEN

BEFORE

2. music

BETWEEN

BEFORE

3. tiger

BETWEEN

BEFORE

4. napkin

BETWEEN

BEFORE

5. picnic

BETWEEN

BEFORE

6. magnet

BETWEEN

BEFORE

7. robot

BETWEEN

BEFORE

8. sunset

BETWEEN

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 BETWEEN word and one new BEFORE word.

BETWEEN _____

BEFORE _____

CHALLENGE

Write a real three-syllable word. Divide it into syllables, then mark each VCCV or VCV pattern you find.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	rabbit	BETWEEN	rabbit has the VCCV pattern a-bb-i, so it divides rab-bit.
2	music	BEFORE	music has the VCV pattern u-s-i, so it divides mu-sic.
3	tiger	BEFORE	tiger has the VCV pattern i-g-e, so it divides ti-ger.
4	napkin	BETWEEN	napkin has the VCCV pattern a-pk-i, so it divides nap-kin.
5	picnic	BETWEEN	picnic has the VCCV pattern i-cn-i, so it divides pic-nic.
6	magnet	BETWEEN	magnet has the VCCV pattern a-gn-e, so it divides mag-net.
7	robot	BEFORE	robot has the VCV pattern o-b-o, so it divides ro-bot.
8	sunset	BETWEEN	sunset has the VCCV pattern u-ns-e, so it divides sun-set.

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)

- **BETWEEN:** tab-let
- **BEFORE:** ra-ven

Challenge: to-ma-to. It has VCV in to-ma and VCV in ma-to.

For Part 2, accept any two items with an accurate syllable break and pattern explanation. Part 3 answers may vary if the word matches the stated pattern and division.