

Vowel Pair Detectives

Decide whether touching vowels split or stay together.

4.2.A.iii “decoding words using advanced knowledge of syllable division patterns such as VV;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

VOWELS SEPARATE

Sometimes two touching vowels are in different syllables. Put the syllable break between the vowels.

radio: ra-di-o

VOWELS TOGETHER

Sometimes two touching vowels work as a vowel team in one syllable. Keep the vowel team together.

train

1 SORT

8 items

For each word, circle SEPARATE or TOGETHER, then choose two words and explain how the vowel pair helped you decide.

1. lion

SEPARATE

TOGETHER

2. beach

SEPARATE

TOGETHER

3. poem

SEPARATE

TOGETHER

4. diet

SEPARATE

TOGETHER

5. float

SEPARATE

TOGETHER

6. ruin

SEPARATE

TOGETHER

7. moon

SEPARATE

TOGETHER

8. paint

SEPARATE

TOGETHER

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 word with separate vowels and one new word with vowels that stay together. Draw a slash between the separate vowels, and put a box around the vowel team.

SEPARATE _____

TOGETHER _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that uses one SEPARATE word and one TOGETHER word. Mark the separate vowel pair with a slash and put a box around the vowel team.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	lion	SEPARATE	The i and o are in different syllables: li/on.
2	beach	TOGETHER	The ea is a vowel team in one syllable.
3	poem	SEPARATE	The o and e are in different syllables: po/em.
4	diet	SEPARATE	The i and e are in different syllables: di/et.
5	float	TOGETHER	The oa is a vowel team in one syllable.
6	ruin	SEPARATE	The u and i are in different syllables: ru/in.
7	moon	TOGETHER	The oo is a vowel team in one syllable.
8	paint	TOGETHER	The ai is a vowel team in one syllable.

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)

- **SEPARATE:** po/et
- **TOGETHER:** gr[ee]n

Challenge: The vide/o showed a r[ai]nbow.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the touching vowels and tell whether a syllable break belongs between them. Part 3 answers will vary; check that the separate example has adjacent vowels in different syllables and the together example has a vowel team in one syllable.