

Syllable Split Detectives

Use consonants to find syllable breaks.

4.2.B.iv "spelling words using advanced knowledge of syllable division patterns;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

DIVIDE BETWEEN

When two consonants stand between vowels, divide between the consonants. Example: bas/ket.

bas/ket

DIVIDE BEFORE

When one consonant stands between vowels and the first vowel is long, divide before the consonant.

Example: mu/sic.

mu/sic

1 SORT

8 items

For each word, circle BETWEEN or BEFORE, then choose two words, one from each category, write each with a slash at the syllable break, and explain what helped you decide.

1. picnic

BETWEEN

BEFORE

2. magnet

BETWEEN

BEFORE

3. hotel

BETWEEN

BEFORE

4. dentist

BETWEEN

BEFORE

5. tulip

BETWEEN

BEFORE

6. bonus

BETWEEN

BEFORE

7. napkin

BETWEEN

BEFORE

8. ruler

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 two-syllable word for BETWEEN and one for BEFORE. Mark each syllable break with a slash.

BETWEEN _____

BEFORE _____

CHALLENGE

Write one new word for each category, mark both syllable breaks, and use both words correctly in one sentence.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	picnic	BETWEEN	The c and n are between vowels, so the word divides pic/nic.
2	magnet	BETWEEN	The g and n are between vowels, so the word divides mag/net.
3	hotel	BEFORE	One consonant, t, follows the long o sound, so the word divides ho/tel.
4	dentist	BETWEEN	The n and t are between vowels, so the word divides den/tist.
5	tulip	BEFORE	One consonant, l, follows the long u sound, so the word divides tu/lip.
6	bonus	BEFORE	One consonant, n, follows the long o sound, so the word divides bo/nus.
7	napkin	BETWEEN	The p and k are between vowels, so the word divides nap/kin.
8	ruler	BEFORE	One consonant, l, follows the long u sound, so the word divides ru/ler.

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:** sun/set
- **BEFORE:** ti/ger

Challenge: BETWEEN: rab/bit. BEFORE: mo/tor. The motor hummed beside the rabbit.

Answers: 1 BETWEEN, 2 BETWEEN, 3 BEFORE, 4 BETWEEN, 5 BEFORE, 6 BEFORE, 7 BETWEEN, 8 BEFORE. For Part 2, accept explanations that name two middle consonants for BETWEEN or one middle consonant plus a long first vowel for BEFORE.