

Vowel Break Detective

Use the first vowel sound to choose a syllable break.

5.2.A.iii “decoding words using advanced knowledge of syllable division patterns;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

OPEN

In a VCV word, divide before the middle consonant when the first vowel has a long sound. The first syllable ends in a vowel, so it is open.

ti/ger

CLOSED

In a VCV word, divide after the middle consonant when the first vowel has a short sound. The first syllable ends in a consonant, so it is closed.

sev/en

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For Part 1, circle OPEN or CLOSED for each word, then for Part 2, choose two words, show each syllable break with a slash, and explain how the first vowel sound helped you decide.

1. music

OPEN

CLOSED

2. lemon

OPEN

CLOSED

3. hotel

OPEN

CLOSED

4. basic

OPEN

CLOSED

5. cabin

OPEN

CLOSED

6. limit

OPEN

CLOSED

7. bonus

OPEN

CLOSED

8. robot

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 VCV word for each category. Show each syllable break with a slash.

OPEN _____

CLOSED _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence using one new OPEN word and one new CLOSED word. Mark each syllable break with a slash, then label both words.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	music	OPEN	mu/sic, the first vowel has a long u sound.
2	lemon	CLOSED	lem/on, the first vowel has a short e sound.
3	hotel	OPEN	ho/tel, the first vowel has a long o sound.
4	basic	OPEN	ba/sic, the first vowel has a long a sound.
5	cabin	CLOSED	cab/in, the first vowel has a short a sound.
6	limit	CLOSED	lim/it, the first vowel has a short i sound.
7	bonus	OPEN	bo/nus, the first vowel has a long o sound.
8	robot	OPEN	ro/bot, the first vowel has a long o sound.

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:** pa/per
- **CLOSED:** riv/er

Challenge: The stu/dent saw a com/et. OPEN: student; CLOSED: comet.

For Part 2, students should identify the syllable break and connect the first vowel sound to OPEN or CLOSED. Accept other correct two-syllable VCV examples in Part 3 and the challenge.