

Syllable Types and How to Mark Them

- A syllable is a unit of speech that has 1 vowel sound.
- By breaking a word into its syllables we can more accurately read or spell the word.
- Various syllable types can be combined to make multisyllable words.

Type	Details	How to Mark Up
closed	• A closed syllable has one vowel and at least one consonant following the vowel. This syllable is closed and therefore the vowel is short. • Mark the vowel sound with a breve (˘).	
open	• An open syllable has only one vowel at the end. The vowel is long. • Mark the vowel sound with a macron (ˉ).	
vowel-consonant-e (final magic e)	• A vowel-consonant-e syllable ends in a vowel, a consonant, and a silent e. The first vowel is long. • Mark the vowel sound with a macron (ˉ).	
vowel team	• A vowel team syllable has 2+ vowels or 1+ vowels + consonant(s) next to each other. • This includes diphthongs which begin to say 1 sound and slide into another sound.	
r-controlled vowel	• A vowel + r syllable has a vowel followed by an r. This results in the vowel making an unexpected sound because it's controlled by the r.	
final stable (-le, -sion, -ture, etc.)	• A final stable syllable ends in -le or another stable unit such as -sion or -ture.	