

Mini Lesson

Open and Closed Syllables

Say: Today we are going to learn how to identify open and closed syllables. When a syllable ends with a vowel mark, it is called an open syllable. When a syllable ends with an underlined consonant or consonants, it is called closed. Today, we will first look at open syllables.

Write (on the board): me

Say: Let's mark the word. Is there a "q" pattern? No. Is there a "gh" pattern? No. Is there a "y" pattern? No. Is there a "w" pattern? No. Is there an "le" pattern? No. Is there an "r" pattern? No. Is there an "o" pattern? No. Is there a 3 vowel pattern? No. Is there a 2 vowel pattern? No. Is there a one vowel pattern? Yes. I mark the "e" short because a vowel by itself is usually short. Are there consonants that go together? No. Is there a consonant by itself? Yes I underline the m. The word has two marks, so it has two sounds. It has one vowel mark, so it has one syllable. Remember when we mark a vowel by itself, we say it is usually short. We will now learn a new pattern to help determine when a vowel will be short or long. We need to look at the syllables and determine if they are open or closed. When a syllable ends with a vowel mark it is an open syllable. There is a short vowel mark at the end of the word. That means this is an open syllable. An open syllable means the vowel sound will be long, not short. Since we know it is an open syllable, we would now change the short vowel mark over the "e" to a long vowel mark. We will now look at a couple more examples where we will have an open syllable.

Write (on the board): we she be

Say: The first thing we have to do is mark the word. Then we identify how many sounds and syllables. Next we determine if the syllable is open or closed. An open syllable ends with a vowel mark. If you have an open syllable, the vowel mark needs to be long, even if it is a vowel by itself.

Have the students mark the words, tell the number of sounds and syllables. Identify if it is an open syllable by telling why, and then change the vowel mark to long.

Say: We will now look at words with more than one syllable.

Write (on the board): table

Say: Let's mark the word. Is there a "q" pattern? No. Is there a "gh" pattern? No. Is there a "y" pattern? No. Is there a "w" pattern? No. Is there an "le" pattern? Yes. I circle the "ble". Is there an "r" pattern? No. Is there an "o" pattern? No. Is there a 3 vowel pattern? No. Is there a 2 vowel pattern? No. Is there a one vowel pattern? Yes I mark the "a" short because a vowel by itself is usually short. Are there consonants that go together? No. Is there a consonant by itself? Yes I underline the "t". The word has three marks, so it has three sounds. It has two vowel marks, so it has two syllables. We need to look at the syllables and determine if they are open or closed. We know that each syllable has to have a vowel sound. The two vowel marks we have right now are a short "a" and a special sound (the "ble") That means the first syllable will consist of the t and the "a" and the second syllable will be the special sound. Since the first syllable ends with a vowel mark it is an open syllable. That means the short "a" needs to change to a long "a" sound. Remember, when a syllable ends with a vowel mark it is an open syllable. We will now look at a couple more examples where we will have an open syllable.

Write (on the board): fable maple bridle

Have the students mark the words, tell the number of sounds and syllables. Identify if it is an open syllable by telling why, and then change the vowel mark to long.

Say: We will now look at some words where you have to know how to divide the syllables when there is a vowel, consonant and special sound.

Write (on the board): shady

Say: Let's mark the word. Is there a "q" pattern? No. Is there a "gh" pattern? No. Is there a "y" pattern? Yes, I circle the y because it makes a special sound. Is there a "w" pattern? No. Is there an "le" pattern? No. Is there an "r" pattern? No. Is there an "o" pattern? No. Is there a 3 vowel pattern? No. Is there a 2 vowel pattern? No. Is there a one vowel pattern? Yes. I mark the "a" short because a vowel by itself is usually short. Are there consonants that go together? Yes. I underline the "sh" because they are consonants that go together. Is there a consonant by itself? Yes I underline the "d". The word has four marks, so it has four sounds. It has two vowel marks, so it has two syllables. We now need to determine if the syllables are open. We have short vowel mark for the "a" and the "y" circled with a consonant between them. That means the consonant must go with the second vowel. That makes the first syllable sha. Since the syllable ends with a vowel mark, it is an open syllable and we need to change the short mark to a long mark. The second syllable has dy. We have already marked the "y" as a special sound so it does not change. We will now look at a couple more examples where we will have an open syllable.

Write (on the board): relay hiker phony homey

Have the students mark the words, tell the number of sounds and syllables. Identify if it is an open syllable by telling why, and then change the vowel mark to long.

Say: Turn to page A-32 in your practice book. Look at the words and tell me how you would mark them now that you know about dividing consonants and open syllables.

Have the students identify why they are changing the markings.

Say: Look through your book and see if you can identify more words that you would change now that you know how to divide syllables and identify open syllables.

Say: We have identified open syllables. We will now discuss closed syllables. When you have a consonant at the end of the syllable, it is closed. The vowel sound in a closed syllable is short.

Write (on the board) flap fickle blink

Ask the students to mark the words, identify the number of sounds and syllables. Next ask them to tell whether the syllable is open or closed. They need to say the syllable ends with a consonant mark so it is closed and the vowel will be short.

Say: There is one combination that you need to remember and that is when “i” is followed by “nd” the “i” makes the long “i” sound.

Write (on the board) find mind behind

Say: You will find that these are closed syllables but the “i” followed by “nd” will still have the long “i” sound.