Syllable Types

Every word is made from syllables. The English language has 6 syllable types:

Open, Closed, R-controlled, Vowel Team, Silent-e, and C-le.

Open Syllable

- An open syllable has only one vowel. The vowel has a long sound (like the ‘i’ in line) and is the last letter of the syllable.

- Open syllables have only one consonant between the open syllable and the next vowel.

  * examples: ba-by, fe-male, i-vy, fro-zen, & Cu-pid

Closed Syllable

- A closed syllable has only one vowel. The vowel has a short sound (like the ‘i’ in mill).

- If the word is only 2 letters, it must end with a consonant.
  - examples: in, on, of, at, & it

- If the word is 3+ letters, a closed syllable has 1 consonant before and 1+ consonants after the vowel.
  - examples: cat, catch, net, nest, web, man, roll, & bark

- If a word has 2 closed syllables next to each other, there will be two consonants between the vowels.
  - examples: win-ter, sum-mer, com-mon, & tem-per
R-Controlled Syllable

- An r-controlled syllable is a vowel, diphthong, or triphthong with an “r” or a “re” after it.
  - examples: deer, whisper, worth, care, & fire

- R-controlled vowels are pronounced differently way because they are “controlled” by the r.
  - er, ur, & ir vowels sound like the er in “her”
    - examples: per, fur, her, birth, shirt, & hurt
  - some ar vowels sound like the ar in “far”
    - examples: par, far, car, & star
  - other ar vowels sound like the ar in “share”
    - examples: pair, hare, hair, & stare
  - or vowels sound like the or in “for”
    - examples: or, for, floor, & door

Vowel Team Syllable

- A vowel team syllable is a group of 2 - 4 letters, usually vowels, which make a 1 vowel sound.

- If a vowel team is made of 2 vowels, usually only the first vowel is pronounced.
  - examples: rain, fail, suit, & clean

- A vowel team can create a long or short vowel sound.
  - examples: toast, look, saw, feel, wear, & bread

- If a vowel team syllable has a consonant in it, the vowel is usually pronounced differently from normal vowels.
  - examples: walk, loud, sound, though, te-di-ous, tight, & straw

- Fun fact: Vowels teams are usually old words whose pronunciation changed over long periods of time. They're only learned through practice and recognition.
Silent-e (VCe) Syllable

- The silent-e syllable is also called VCe, which stands for Vowel-Consonant-e.
  - It consists of a vowel, followed by a consonant, followed by an “e” that is silent.

- It's usually the last syllable in a root word.

- The vowel has a long sound (like the ‘i’ in line).

- examples: take, cake, theme, line, tone, tune, & ex-ile

C-le Syllable

- The C-le syllable is also called the Consonant-le.
  - It consists of a consonant followed by an “le.”

- It's usually the last syllable in a root word.

- Does the word end with ‘ckle’?
  - Divide right before the ‘le.’
  - examples: tack-le, freck-le, tick-le, & buck-le

- Does the word end with ‘le’ (not ‘ckle’)?
  - Is the letter before the ‘le’ a consonant?
    - Divide 1 letter before the ‘le.’
    - examples: ap-ple, rum-ble, fa-ble, & ta-ble
  - Is the letter before the ‘le’ a vowel?
    - Do nothing.
    - examples: ale, scale, sale, file, & tile