

Syllabication Rules

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Rule

1	Every syllable has one vowel <u>sound</u> .			
2	The number of vowel sounds in a word equals the number of syllables	home=1	sub* ject=2	pub* lish* ing =3
3	A one syllable word is never divided.	stop	feet	bell
4	Consonant blends and digraphs are never separated.	rest* ing	bush* el	reach* ing
5	When a word has a ck or an x in it, the word is <u>usually</u> divided after the ck or x .	nick* el	tax* i	
6	A compound word is divided between the two words that make the compound word.	in* side	foot* ball	tooth* brush
7	When two or more consonants come between two vowels in a word, it is <u>usually</u> divided between the first two consonants.	sis* ter	but* ter	hun* gry
8	When a <u>single</u> consonant comes between two vowels in a word, it is <u>usually</u> divided after the consonant if the vowel is short .	lev* er	cab* in	hab* it
9	When a <u>single</u> consonant comes between two vowels in a word, it is <u>usually</u> divided before the consonant if the vowel is long .	ba* sin	fe* ver	ma* jor
10	When two vowels come together in a word, and are <u>sounded separately</u> , divide the word between the two vowels.	ra* di* o	di* et	i* de* a
11	When a vowel is sounded <u>alone</u> in a word, it forms a syllable itself.	grad* u* ate	a* pron	u* nit
12	A word that has a <u>prefix</u> is divided between the <u>root word</u> and the prefix.	dis* count	mis* fit	un* tie
13	When be , de , ex and re are at the beginning of a word, they make a syllable of their own.	be* came re* main	de* fend	ex* hale
14	A word that has a <u>suffix</u> is divided between the <u>root word</u> and the suffix.	kind* ness	thank* ful	stuff* ing
15	When a word ends in le , preceded by a <u>consonant</u> , the word is divided before that consonant.	pur* ple	fum* ble	mid* dle
16	When -ed comes at the end of a word, it forms a syllable only when preceded by d or t .	start* ed	fund* ed	
17	When a word or syllable ends in al or el , these letters <u>usually</u> form the last syllable.	lev* el	us* u* al	
18	When ture and tion are at the end of a word, they make their own syllable.	lo* tion	pos* ture	
19	A word should be divided between syllables at the end of a line. The hyphen (-) stays with the syllable at the end of the line.	When they got to the <u>supermar-</u> <u>ket</u> , it was already dark.		