

Syllable Rules

Rule #1

Every syllable has **one** vowel sound.

Rule #2

The number of vowel **sounds** in a word equals the number of syllables.

home =1

sub • ject =2

pub • lish • ing =3

Rule #3

A one syllable word is **never** divided.

stop

feel

bell

Rule #4

Consonant blends and digraphs are **never** separated.

rest • ing

bush • el

reach • ing

Rule #5

When a word has a **ck** or an **x** in it, the word is usually divided **after** the **ck** or **x**.

nick • el

tax • i

Rule #6

A compound word is divided **between** the two words that make the compound word.

in • side

foot • ball

tooth • brush

Rule #7

When two or more consonants come between two vowels in a word, it is usually divided **between** the **first** two consonants.

sis • ter but • ter hun • gry

Rule #8

When a single consonant comes between two vowels in a word, it is usually divided **after** the consonant if the vowel is **short**.

lev • er cab • in hab • it

Rule #9

When a single consonant comes between two vowels in a word, it is usually divided **before** the consonant if the vowel is **long**.

ba • sin fe • ver ma • jor

Rule #10

When two vowels come together in a word, and are sounded separately, divide the word **between** the two vowels.

ra • di • o di • et i • de • a

Rule #11

When a vowel is sounded alone in a word, it forms a syllable **itself**.

grad • u • ate a • pron u • nit

Rule #12

A word that has a prefix is divided **between** the root word and the prefix.

dis • count mis • fit un • tie

Rule #13

When **be**, **de**, **ex** and **re** are at the **beginning** of a word, they make a syllable of their own.

be • came de • fend ex • hale re • main

Rule #14

A word that has a suffix is divided **between** the root word and the suffix.

kind • ness thank • ful stuff • ing

Rule #15

When a word **ends** in **le**, **preceded** by a consonant, the word is divided **before** that consonant.

pur • ple fum • ble mid • dle

Rule #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

Rule #17

When a word or syllable **ends** in **al** or **el**, these letters usually form the last syllable.

lev • el us • u • al

Rule #18

The suffixes **able** and **ible** form their own syllable.

print • able con • vert • ible

Rule #19

When **ture** and **tion** are at the **end** of a word, they make their own syllable.

lo • tion pos • ture

Rule #20

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.

By the time they decided to go to the supermar-
ket, it was already dark.