The explicit teaching of segmentation / syllabification of two syllable words improves spelling ability.

The aims of the following sessions were:
- to teach these students about syllables
- to teach them how to segment words when writing
- to develop positive attitudes towards spelling and their ability to spell
- to develop strategies to use when spelling.
- to develop an understanding of the importance of correct spelling.
- to listen to the ways we pronounce words
- to discuss the sounds we hear in words

Lesson plan for the revision of compound words where there is equal stress on both syllables.
Step 1 The teachers says each word. Students repeat the word.
Step 2 What do you know about these words?
Step 3 With correct response (compound words) ask How many syllables in each word?
Step 4 Tap out each syllable.
Step 5 What is the first syllable in the specified list word?
Step 6 What is the second syllable in the specified list word?
Step 7 What are the sounds that you can hear in the specified list word? What vowel sounds do you hear? These are written by the teacher onto the board.
Step 8 How do we spell the first syllable?
Step 9 How do we spell the second syllable?
Step 10 Students then write each of the specified list words.
Step 11 Discuss students’ spellings.
Step 12 What strategies did you use to spell these words?
Step 13 List the strategies for future use.
The last steps are essential in reinforcing the need to utilize the 3 main strategies available to the students. That is the visual, the phonemic and the morphemic strategies.

List of compound words used in Lessons 1 - 4
1. into, teapot, today, cannot, cowboy, bookcase, outside, salesman, homesick, tuckshop, schoolroom,
2. mainland, makeshift, streetcar, classroom, lighthouse, mailbox, earwig, grapevine, snowball, lukewarm,
3. handsome, outline, Sunday, football, tonight, somehow, grandstand, roadwork, earmark, railway.
4. earthworm, flashlight, homesick, seacoast, someone, seashore, somewhere, postpone, headache, blackboard.
**Lesson plan** for the teaching of 2 syllable words as used for lessons 5 - 14

Step 1  Say the word then students repeat the word correctly.

Step 2  Tap the number of syllables.

Step 3  Say each syllable separately.

Step 4  Say each syllable with the same stress on each.

Step 5  Students asked to mark the page to show 2 syllables.
  e.g. _______ / _________

Step 6  Students write the word.

Step 7  Discuss the spelling, the vowel in each syllable, the pattern in the words, the parts of the words they found difficult, what other letter combinations could represent that sound?

Step 8  What strategies helped you write the specified word? Does it sound and or look correct? Did a word you know help you spell this one? Use of analogy?

Step 9  Reinforce the fact that each syllable contains a vowel.

In each lesson the student are encouraged to verbalize how they approached the spelling of the words, the strategies used, whether their errors were good approximations or poor choices. The teacher and students discussed the links they could make between similar words. What mnemonics they may use to help them? E.g. student 2 related that for listen ‘you can listen to ten rules in a list’.

**Lists of two syllable words used in lessons 5 – 10**

1. chicken, dozen, happen, heaven, linen, listen, oven, sudden, seven, often, modern, pattern, pigeon, robin.
2. captain, station, action, question, lemon, prison, apron, button, blossom, common, cotton, custom.
3. bandage, cabbage, damage, savage, apple, barrel, rascal, signal, medal, metal.
4. bundle, castle, cattle, gentle, handle, jungle, kettle, little, middle, saddle, scramble, settle, single, struggle.
5. bigger, brother, bumper, clever, ever, butter, ladder, hammer, matter, member, finger, answer, gather, collar, cellar, doctor, error.
6. candy, cherry, country, copy, empty, ferry, carry, happy, heavy, hurry, many, marry, merry, monkey, plenty, study, silly.

**List of two syllable words used in lessons 11 – 14**

1. accept, address, admit, arrest, among, assist, attack, attempt, attend, attract.
2. belong, began, begin, become, content, collect, contest, contract, control, connect, consent, commence, correct.
3. defend, depend, describe, discuss, distinct, erect, event, exact, expect, expense, express, effect.
4. immense, insist, inspect, instead, intend, itself, machine magic, possess, prevent, product, protect, suspect, suggest.