

Six Syllable Types

Syllable Type

Examples

Definition

Closed

dem-o-crat-ic
hos-tel
bev-er-age

A syllable with a short vowel, spelled with a single vowel letter ending in one or more consonants.
(VC, CVC, CCVC, CVCC, CCVCC, CCCVCC)

Open

pro-gram
ta-ble
re-cent

A syllable that ends with a long vowel sound, spelled with a single vowel letter.
(V) (CV) (CCV) (CCCV)

Vowel-Consonant-e

com-plete
de-spite

A syllable with one long vowel, spelled with one vowel + one consonant + silent e.
(VC-e) (Magic -e or Silent -e)

Vowel Team
(including
diphthongs)

aw-ful
train-er
con-geal

Syllables with long or short vowel spellings that use two to four letters to spell the vowel. Diphthongs **ou/ow**, and **oi/oy** are included in this category.
(VT)

Vowel-r
(r-controlled)

in-jur-i-ous
con-sort
char-ter

A syllable with **er**, **ir**, **or**, **ar**, or **ur**. Vowel pronunciation often changes before /r/.
(Vr)

Consonant-le

drib-ble
bea-gle
lit-tle

An unaccented final stable syllable that contains a consonant before /l/, followed by a silent e.
(C-le)
(-ble, -cle, -dle, -fle, -gle, -kle, -ple, -sle, -tle, -zle)

Leftover:
Odd and Schwa

dam-age
act-ive
na-tion

Usually final, unaccented syllables with odd spellings.

