



SIMPLIFIED SYLLABIFICATION RULES FOR DECODING

1. Find the vowel and place a slash after the next consonant. As a general rule, pronounce the vowels as /a/, /e/, /i/, /o/ or /u/ (e.g., com/plex).
2. If there are 'twins' (the same consonant twice) following the vowel, place the slash after the twins (e.g., off/en/ded).
3. Two vowels together usually represent one phoneme (sound), so place the slash after the next consonant and join the letters representing the sound (e.g., moon/beam).
4. Consonant clusters that represent one phoneme (sound) are kept together (e.g., ban/ish/ing).
5. If there are extra consonants at the end and no vowel, leave together (e.g., mis/treat/ment).
6. 'y' is the only letter than can be left by itself at the end and is usually 'acting' as a vowel (e.g., un/happ/y).
7. Don't separate the 'e' at the end of the word in split digraphs (e.g., con/fis/cate).
8. When working out the pronunciation of a syllable, be aware of letter combinations that represent one sound (e.g., cur/few).
9. When the letter after double 'c' is 'e', 'i' or 'y' place the slash between the double 'c' because the second 'c' is read as /s/ (e.g., ac/cent).
10. Teach students to try the different phonemes represented by a grapheme and to 'tweak' when applying the strategy to the decoding of unknown real words.