



Here is a simple formula that you can follow for dividing words into syllables.

1. Underline all the sounded vowels: single vowels, vowel teams, and r-controlled. A single “e” at the end of a word is usually silent; cross out silent “e’s” in words.
2. Count the sounded vowels. This tells you how many syllables are in the word.
3. See if the word contains a familiar suffix, such as -er, -ing, -ful, -or -tion. If it does, this is a part of the word you already know how to pronounce.
4. Label all vowels and consonants, starting with the first vowel.

Examples: v c c v c c v c
 a n c e s t o r

 v c c v c c
t r i p p i n g

5. See what pattern the vowels and consonants make: VCCV, VCV, VCCCV

A. Whenever two consonants come together in a word, divide between them: VC/CV. Do not divide blends.

Examples: v c / c v c c
c o n / t e n t

v c / c v c c
d e n / t i s t

B. When only one consonant comes between two vowels, divide after the first vowel V/CV. This makes an open syllable, and the vowel sound is usually long.

Examples: v / c v c c
s i / l e n t

v / c v c
r o / b o t

Pronounce the word with an open syllable. If this does not make a word that sounds familiar, divide after the consonant: VC/V

Examples: v c / c v
 l i m / i t

 v c / c v
 c a b / i n

- C. When three consonants come together, divide after the first consonant: VC/CCV. If this does not make a word that sounds familiar, divide after the second consonant: VCC/CV.

Example: v c / c c v c
 c o m / p l e t e /

 v c c / c v c
 p u m p / k i n

6. If a vowel combination is reversed, divide between the vowels. Each vowel will then have a sound.

Examples: v i / o / l e t
 v i / o / l i n n e / o n
 d i / a l l i / a r