

Pre-Session Activity

Syllable Types and Syllable Division

The *Making Sense* course of study is organized around teaching six syllable types. These six syllable types are used as a system to organize instruction in decoding and spelling. They help adults to learn to decode the patterns used to represent the various types of vowels. Together with a set of principles for dividing complex words into syllables, they help learners to decode and spell multisyllabic words. The six syllable types are as follows:

- Closed (with short vowels, e.g., “flat”)
- Open (with long vowels, e.g., “go”)
- VCe, or final-e (with long vowels, e.g., “plate”)
- R-controlled (the ‘r’ affects the vowel sound, e.g., “far”)
- Vowel digraph (with long vowels or other vowel sounds, e.g., “meat,” “loud”)
- Cle (only in multisyllabic words, e.g., “turtle”)

The six syllable types work together with a set of rules for syllable division to help learners decode multisyllabic words. For example, we divide words into syllables between two consonants (e.g., “bas-ket” gives us two closed syllables with short vowels), and we usually divide words before a single consonant (e.g., “ra-dar” gives us an open syllable with a long-a and an r-controlled syllable). The strategy for decoding multisyllabic words includes these rules as well as other patterns and principles. (p. 7)