Closed Syllables

Closed syllables are syllables (or words) that END with a consonant(s) that “closes in” the vowel, making it say the SHORT sound. The following words are closed syllables or are made up of all closed syllables:

1 Closed Syllable
- dish
- pan
- bell
- mop
- pot
- slab
- witch
- crab
- king
- will
- ball
- club

2 Closed Syllables
- magnet
- solid
- basket
- attic
- panic

3 Closed Syllables
- magnetic
- basketball
- fantastic
- subtracting

Dividing Multisyllabic Words with CLOSED SYLLABLES:

*It is easy to break a multisyllabic word into syllables and read it WHEN the word is made up of ALL closed syllables. Simply follow the SYLLABLE DIVISION RULES using words with only CLOSED syllables.

*Simply remember to underline, point to, or highlight the vowels in the word. Next, count how many consonants are between each of the vowels.

1. If there is only 1 CONSONANT between 2 vowels, you have to try splitting two ways:

- BEFORE the consonant (which will make the first syllable OPEN with a LONG vowel).

  even    open

OR
-Split AFTER the consonant, making the first syllable CLOSED with a SHORT vowel:
  solid   pivot   novel

2. If there are 2 CONSONANTS between 2 vowels, SPLIT BETWEEN THEM EXCEPT when the 2 consonants are a digraph:
  basket ball   magnetic   gallop

3a. ALWAYS keep digraphs together (sh, th, wh, ch, ck, ph):
  racket   jacket

If there are 3 OR MORE consonants between 2 vowels, keep the following tricks in mind. . .

3b. ALWAYS keep DIGRAPHS and TRIGRAPHS (tch) together:
  nutshell   bathtub   hatchet

4. Consonant Blends ALMOST always stay together in a syllable ONLY when there are 3 CONSONANTS between 2 vowels:
  pumpkin

5. If the word has “in-between” blends, like in the word hundred, the blend USUALLY goes with the second syllable:
  *hundred

The –nd and the –dr in the word “hundred” can BOTH be considered blends, so we split it BEFORE the blend, putting it in the 2nd syllable.

Okay, now that you have read some words with Closed Syllables and learned some tips to help you break words into Closed Syllables, let’s see if you can take a pencil and split the words (on the next page) into the CLOSED SYLLABLES:
Now that you have practice dividing or BREAKING words apart using Closed Syllables, let's see if you can PLAY GAMES with words that have Closed Syllables. . .
CLOSED SYLLABLE BOGGLE

Using any kind of timer, set it to give yourself 3 MINUTES. Using the BOGGLE board below, mix and match CLOSED SYLLABLES to see how many REAL words you can make out of the syllables below (ONLY use syllables on the board and if you are not sure if your word is correct, ask a grown-up to check it for you. ☺️

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>mag</th>
<th>ton</th>
<th>pan</th>
<th>tack</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ten</td>
<td>tract</td>
<td>tic</td>
<td>mit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ad</td>
<td>ic</td>
<td>net</td>
<td>sub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>top</td>
<td>tas</td>
<td>at</td>
<td>fan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## CLOSED SYLLABLE BOGGLE #2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>et</th>
<th>land</th>
<th>bas</th>
<th>in</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ten</td>
<td>ball</td>
<td>ket</td>
<td>jack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nis</td>
<td>las</td>
<td>tick</td>
<td>let</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sub</td>
<td>tis</td>
<td>at</td>
<td>tract</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
*There are only a FEW EXCEPTIONS to the **Closed Syllable Rule** that ALL CLOSED SYLLABLES have SHORT VOWEL SOUNDS, and following are the EXCEPTIONS to the Closed Syllable Rule:

- ild
- ind
- ost
- old
- olt

These tricky spelling patterns *sometimes* have the LONG VOWEL SOUND, even though they are still considered CLOSED SYLLABLES. Here are some examples of when these patterns make the long sound in words:

wild  child  post  most  kind  find  holt
bolt  bold  old  cold  mold  sold

Here are some examples of when these patterns DO follow the Closed Syllable Rule and have a SHORT VOWEL SOUND:

**cost**  The bike will **cost** $100.

**wind**  The **wind** blew my sand toys away!