



IMPORTANT TIPS FOR Reading Multisyllabic Words

The following tips are extremely useful for students when they are learning to read words with two or more syllables. From my experience, the reading tips are extremely powerful for struggling readers even in the secondary levels of schooling.

Following the tips, are 11 pages of words for analysis and reading practice.

To make this teaching useful, a student needs:

- to know what a vowel and consonant is
- to know the name and short vowel sound for each of the vowel letters

TEACHING TIPS

1. When we read words, we often need to chunk them into syllables. Sometimes it is difficult to know where to make the break.

2. Making the break after the first vowel. If you see a word that has a single vowel and then a single consonant, we usually make the break after the first vowel. We call this a FREE VOWEL. In this case, the first vowel letter says its NAME (the long vowel sound.) *For example, ba/sin lo/tion*

Note that the single letter U can say its name ("you") as in "cu/pid" or it can say a long "oo" sound as in "ru/mour".

Practise: Pages 2-7 contain words that have this pattern. Go through and slash the words after the first vowel then read them.

3. Although the above USUALLY works, it doesn't always. If the word doesn't make sense with the long vowel sound, try slashing the syllable after the following consonant. This means the vowel is no longer a FREE VOWEL and it will no longer say its name. When we "close off" a vowel with a consonant, it makes its short sound. *For example, cab/in*

Practise: Page 8 contains words that have this pattern. If you slashed the words after the first vowel and read them, they wouldn't make sense. You need to slash these after the following consonant.

4. If you see a doubled consonant after the vowel, do NOT split the word after the vowel. Some say to make the split between the consonants whereas others say to make it after the two consonants. Either way, the vowel is "closed off" and makes a short sound.

For example, rabbit rabb/it or rab/bit

Practise: Page 9 contains words that have this pattern.

5. If you see a digraph (th, sh, ch, dg, ck) or a trigraph (tch) after a single vowel, you always keep the digraph and trigraph together and usually use it to "close off" the vowel thus making it say a short sound. *For example, packet pack/et* **Practise: Page 10 contains words that have this pattern.**

6. If you see a blend after the consonant, split the two consonants of the blend. Again, the vowel is "closed off" by one of these consonants and is read as a short vowel sound. *For example, camper cam/per simple sim/ple* **Practise: Page 11 contains words that have this pattern.**

basin	baby
cable	blazer
caper	crazy
fable	favour
flavour	famous
haven	labour
lazy	laden
label	nasal
nation	patient
raven	Satan
stable	savour

table	vapour
wavy	able
Asian	April
even	emu
evil	demon
femur	genius
helium	lever
metre	regal
recent	renal
senior	Venus
cradle	bison

dilute	diver
diner	dinosaur
final	giant
lion	miner
minus	minor
pilot	priority
prior	quiet
riot	silent
spider	shiny
tiger	tiny
trial	tripod

viper	winery
ocean	opal
oval	open
omen	sofa
coma	bonus
bony	donut
drover	focus
frozen	Homer
joker	jovial
loner	lotion
locust	motion

moped	noble
notion	nomad
potion	probiotic
robot	robust
rotunda	sonar
spoken	toner
token	woven
woken	broken
utility	unicorn
unit	Uranus
cupid	curious

crucifix	funeral
furious	frugal
humid	junior
jury	luminous
music	numerous
puny	putrid
rumour	Rupert
stupid	tumour
tunic	tuna
tuner	tuba
tutu	Zulu

planet	cabin
satin	devil
lemon	never
habit	tenor
lavish	lizard
novel	swivel
tonic	product
dragon	liver
ever	glamour
shiver	wizard
ravish	ever

rabbit	fussy
sudden	hammer
summer	blizzard
luggage	message
suppose	muddy
letter	better
lesson	snigger
baggage	button
flutter	butter
hidden	rudder
ladder	shimmer

kitchen	blacken
rushing	bucket
racket	packet
picket	clutching
wither	mother
slither	badger
stretcher	patching
hatchet	crutches
lather	rashes
wishing	checker
knocker	pocket

window	simple
sample	ankle
dimple	ample
stinky	camper
scamper	handy
candle	handle
spindle	ramble
humble	hundred
scandal	hamper
dingo	cranberry
lantern	bangle