

Common Syllable Patterns

Syllable Pattern	Examples
<p>1. A closed syllable ends in at least one consonant; the vowel is short.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pan • Shot • magnet
<p>2. An open syllable ends in one vowel; the vowel is long.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • so • tiger • her
<p>3. A vowel-consonant-e syllable ends in one vowel one consonant and a final <i>e</i>. the final <i>e</i> is silent and the vowel is long.</p> <p>(it is helpful for many students to learn this pattern because of its frequency in many one-syllable words)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make • pipe • shine
<p>4. A vowel-<i>r</i> syllable has an <i>r</i> after the vowel; the vowel makes an unexpected sound.</p> <p>(Vowels that are followed by <i>r</i> do not make their common long or short sound.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • car • dirt • turtle
<p>5. A vowel pair syllable has two adjacent vowels. Each vowel pair syllable must be learned individually.</p> <p>(The generalization when two vowels go walking is only reliable approximately half of the time.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sail • boat • feet • moon • boy
<p>6. A final stable syllable has a consonant-<i>e</i> combination or a nonphonetic but reliable unit such as <i>-tion</i>. The accent usually falls on the syllable before the final syllable. Final stable syllables have unexpected but reliable pronunciations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • puzzle • bubble • candle • contraction • picture

Adapted from Carreker, S. (1999). Teacher reading: Accurate decoding and fluency. In J. R. Birsch (Ed.), *Multisensory Teaching of Basic Language Skills* (pp. 141-182). Baltimore: Brookes; Moats, L.C. (1995). *Spelling Developments disability and instruction*. Baltimore: York Press; Moats, L.C. (2000). *Speech to print: Language essentials for teachers*. Baltimore: Brookes.

Common Spelling Rules

Rule	Description	Examples
Floss Rule	If a one-syllable base word ends in final /f/, /l/, /s/ immediately after a short vowel, the final sound is spelled <i>ff</i> , <i>ll</i> or <i>ss</i> .	staff bell brass off fill hiss gruff dull floss
Rabbit Rule	In a two-syllable base word with one medial consonant sound immediately after a short vowel, the medial consonant is doubled.	rabbit button tennis letter otter kitten
Doubling Rule	If a base word ends in one vowel, one consonant, and one accent, double the final consonant before adding a vowel suffix.	hop = hopped tag = tagged pet = petting run = runner
Changing Rule	If a base word ends in a consonant and a final <i>y</i> , change the <i>y</i> to <i>i</i> before adding a suffix that does not begin with <i>i</i> .	dry = dries apply = applied happy = happiness
Dropping rule	If a base word ends in a final <i>e</i> , drop the <i>e</i> before adding a vowel suffix.	bike = biking froze = frozen shine = shiny

Adapted from: Carreker, Suzanne. "Teaching Spelling." *Multisensory Teaching of Basic Language Skills*. Ed. Judith R. Birsch. Baltimore: Brookes, 2011. 276-79. Print.