



Closed syllable words: one syllable

A closed syllable has **one vowel**, and a consonant after it **closes the door**. The vowel usually says its short sound: **cat**, fish, **jump**. Start at the top and read across.

kindergarten One vowel, one closed door a, i, o, e, u

Vowel first: **at in up on it if ox us**

ă short a

cat hat map
nap bat rat
sad tap pat
cab lap

ĭ short i

pig big dig
sit lip zip
six hid kit
mix wig bib

ŏ short o

hot pot mop
top box fox
dot hop nod
pod cot rod
job

ĕ short e

bed red web
jet net wet
set let vet
yes pet wed
fed

ŭ short u

sun bug cup
nut rug bus
mud hug tub
cub gum run
fun hut pup

end of K / 1st Two letters, one sound still one vowel, still closed

sh, ch, th ship shop fish dish wish shed cash rush chin chip chop much rich
bath math path moth thin with

ck at the end duck sock rock kick neck back pack luck chick thick sick lock deck

double letters bell hill doll mess kiss puff buzz fizz well miss less cuff tell fill egg
add off

1st grade With blends more consonants, still one closed syllable

blend at the start frog, stop
frog crab drum flag sled stop swim spin clap trip plum snap grin flat
glad step spot slip brick black dress grass class click truck trash
fresh flash brush clock snack smell block drop skip

blend at the end hand, jump
hand jump milk nest lamp desk tent belt gift pond list best sand lift
fast help raft lunch bench chest shelf melt mask went just

blends at both ends stamp
stamp plant crust blend crisp twist stump trust print grand blast
crept

three at the start split
split strap scrub splash sprint strict struck



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Two-syllable closed syllable words

Each of these words has two closed syllables and two short vowels. The dot shows where the word splits. Cut along the dashed lines for flash cards.

Compound words two small words in one



hot•dog



lunch•box



sun•set



back•pack



bath•tub

Split between the consonants two consonants in the middle, split between them



pic•nic



in•sect



wom•bat



traf•fic



zig•zag

How to read a long word

- 1 Spot and dot:** put a dot under each vowel. Two dots, two parts.
- 2 Split between the consonants** in the middle. Keep sh, ch, th and ck together.
- 3** Read each part with a **short vowel**.
- 4 Blend** the parts, then check it's a real word.



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Open door or closed door? cut out the 12 cards and sort them

Open: the vowel ends the syllable and says its name (go). **Closed:** a consonant shuts the door and the vowel turns short (got).

got	me	hit	no	shed	we
go	met	she	not	hi	wet



Open door

ends with a vowel



Closed door

a consonant after the vowel

Split it draw a line to split each word, read each part, then read the whole word

laptop hilltop cobweb uphill chopstick
plastic attic fabric nutmeg tidbit

When the second vowel goes lazy

rab·bit nap·kin bas·ket kit·ten
but·ton mag·net muf·fin

The second part often relaxes to a quick "uh". Read each part with a short vowel, blend, then fix it to the word you know.

Rule breakers closed, but watch the vowel

kind wild child old colt most
child / chil·dren most / lost

The top row says the vowel's name: learn them as they are. In each pair, the second word is short.

Read it out loud

1. The **bobcat** hid in the **sandbox**.
2. Dad got a **hotdog** in a bun.
3. We had a **picnic** on the **hilltop**.
4. Six **insects** sat on the **backpack**.
5. Tom did a **handstand** in the sand.
6. The **wombat** had a **fantastic lunchbox**.

Answer key. Open: go, no, hi, me, we, she. Closed: got, not, hit, met, wet, shed. Split it: lap·top, hill·top, cob·web, up·hill, chop·stick, plas·tic, at·tic, fab·ric, nut·meg, tid·bit.



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