

# RULES FOR SYLLABICATION

\*\*Every syllable has one vowel sound.

\*\*The number of vowel sounds in a word equals the number of syllables.

1. A one syllable word is never divided (safe, car, plane).
2. Divide a compound word between the words that make up the compound word (rail • road, air • port, play • ground, foot • ball, tooth • brush).
3. When a word has a suffix with a vowel sound in it, divide the word between the base word and the suffix (help • ing, leav • ing, kind • ness, thank • ful).
4. When a word has a prefix, divide the word between the prefix and the base word (re • fresh, dis • count, mis • fit, un • tie).
5. When two or more consonants come between two vowels in a word, the word is *usually* divided between the first two consonants (don • key, sis • ter, but • ter, hun • gry).
6. Consonant blends and digraphs are never separated (rest • ing, bush • el, reach • ing).
7. When a word has a **ck** or an **x** in it, the word is *usually* divided after the **ck** or **x** (nick • el, tax • i).
8. When a single consonant comes between two vowels in a word, it is *usually* divided after the consonant if the vowel is short (lev • er, cab • in, hab • it).
9. When a single consonant comes between two vowels in a word, it is *usually* divided before the consonant if the vowel is long (ba • sin, fe • ver, ma • jor).
10. When two vowels come together in a word, and are sounded separately, divide the word between the two vowels ( ra • di • o, di • et, i • de • a).
11. When a vowel is sounded alone in a word, it forms a syllable itself (grad • u • ate, a • pron, u • nit).

12. When **be**, **de**, **ex**, and **re** are at the beginning of a word, they make a syllable of their own (**be • came**, **de • fend**, **ex • hale**, **re • main**).
13. When a word ends in **le**, preceded by a consonant, the word is divided before that consonant (**pur • ple**, **fum • ble**, **mid • dle**).
14. When a word ends in **-ed**, it forms a syllable **ONLY** when preceded by **d** or **t** (**start • ed**, **found • ed**).
15. When **ture** and **tion** are at the end of a word, they make their own syllable (**lo • tion**, **pos • ture**).
16. Divide between two middle consonants. Split up words that have two middle consonants (**hap • pen**, **bas • ket**, **let • ter**, **sup • per**, **din • ner**)