

The Six Foundational Syllable Types:

C

closed (cvc, vc, ccvcc)

am, bit, brand, sing, fell, hen, Beth, stiff, ask

L

consonant le (multi-syllable words ending in -cle)

ta/BLE, grum/BLE, ti/TLE, baf/FLE, shin/GLE, strug/GLE, ma/PLE,
la/DLE, han/DLE, muz/ZLE

O

open (cv, v, ccv)

she, go, my, hi, shy

V

vowel teams (cvvc, cvv, cvv)

roe, green, oat, boy, boil, piece, pie, steak, speak, wreak, weak, snow
groom, blood, food

E

silent-e (cvce, vce)

safe, hide, ice, bride, strobe, cute, flute, tune, home

R

r-controlled (cvr, vr)

or, far, her, squirm, hurt, car, port

**The Six Foundational Syllable Types
in Multi-Syllabic Words**

C closed (cvc, vc, ccvcc) *as in:*
JUST CLOSED: sunset, trumpet, banquet, singing, splendid
MIXED: **entertain**, **volume**, **reservation**, **restroom**, **sunny**, **employee**

L consonant le (multi-syllable words ending in -cle)
MIXED: **ample**, **apple**, **bramble**, **stipple**, **puzzle**, **cuticle**, **steeple**, **beagle**

O open (cv, v, ccv)
JUST OPEN: hero, zero, emu, tutu
(Note: only o and u remain strictly open at the end: *emu*, *emo*, for example, are different from *eme* or *ema* or *emi*.)
MIXED: **open**, **gumbo**, **radar**, **mutate**, **amplify**, **final**, **apex**, **reflex**

V vowel teams (cvvc, cvv, cvv)
JUST VOWEL TEAMS: snowbound, rowboat, cookbook,
MIXED: **complain**, **entertain**, **oyster**, **eager**, **appointment**, **steeple**,
pursuit, **stowaway**, **beekeeper**, **employee**

E silent-e (cvce, vce)
JUST SILENT-E: homeplate, namesake, lifelike, limestone stalemate
MIXED: **mandate**, **transpire**, **basement**, **irate**, **elate**, **remote**, **extreme**,
irrigate

R r-controlled (cvr, vr)
JUST R-CONTROLLED: order, northern, border, firmer, harbor, terror
MIXED: **firmament**, **transfer**, **ferocious**, **torment**, **terminate**, **entertain**,
oyster, **eager**, **refrigerator**, **pursuit**