

Phonics Rules

1. If a word or syllable has only one vowel and it comes at the beginning or a word, the vowel is usually short. These are called VC words.

For example: an, ant, end, in, up, on, ox

2. If a word or syllable has only one vowel and it comes between two consonants, the vowel is usually short. These are called CVC words.

For example: short a in fast, bat, cap, rack, hand
short i in sit, mitt, milk, lips, sink
short e in jet, men, web, tent, belt
short o in pop, box, lock, hot, rock
short u in run, lunch, bus, duck, tub

3. When a syllable ends in a silent “e”, the silent “e” is a signal that the vowel in front of it is long. **This is often called the magic e or the bossy e.**

For example: make, kite, rope, use.

4. **Vowel Pairs:** If a syllable or one syllable word has two vowels, the first vowel usually stands for the long sound, and the second vowel is silent. **These are often called vowel teams. The saying is used: When two vowels go walking the first one does the talking.**

For long a the letters a__e, ai, and ay all stand for the long a sound.

word examples: away, face, play, wait, game, rain.

For long i the letters i__e and ie can stand for the long i sound.

word examples: bike, bite, pie, lie, tie, nine, line

For long u the letters u__e, ui, and ue can all stand for the long u sound.

word examples: blue, glue, tube, flute, suit,

For long o the letters o__e, ow, oe, and oa can all stand for the long o sound.

word examples: bone, nose, own, bowl, toe,
coat, foal,

For long e the letters ea and ee can stand for the long e sound.

word examples: jeans, seat, beak, east, jeep,
beet, seed, team

5. Consonant Digraphs: When two or more consonants are joined together and form a new sound, they are called a consonant digraph.

Initial digraphs: ch, sh, th, thr, ph, wh, ck, kn, wr

Final digraphs: ch, ng, sh, th, tch

6. Syllables: Many words are made of small parts called syllables. Each syllable has one vowel sound.

***Closed syllable-** can only have one vowel and it is followed by one or more consonants. The vowel sound is always short. For example: last, napkin

*exceptions of this rule are ind, ild, old, olt and ost words.

***Open syllable-**can only have one vowel sound which is the last letter in the syllable. The vowel sound is long. For example: hi, sky, skyline, me, etc.

7. Compound Word: is made up of two or more words joined together to make a new word. For ex: granddad.

8. R-controlled Vowels: A vowel followed by an “r” stands for a special sound that is neither long nor short.

R-controlled vowels are: ar, er, ir, or, ur

9. Vowel Digraphs: A vowel digraph is two vowels or a vowel followed by a “w” that produce one vowel sound. The vowel sound can be long or short, or have a special sound of its own.

**Vowel digraphs are: ai, au, aw, ay, ea, ee, ei, ew, ie,
oa, oo, ou, ow**

10. Initial consonant Blends: A consonant blend is two or more consonants that come together in a word. Their sounds blend together, but each sound is heard.

Initial consonant blends are:

S blends: sc, sm, st, sk, sn, sw, sl, sp

L blends: bl, gl, cl, pl, fl

R blends: br, fr, tr, cr, gr, dr, pr

11. Final Consonant Blends: Come at the ends of words.

Final consonant blends are:

S blends: sk, sp, st

L blends: ld, lf, lk, lp, lt

N blends: nd, nk, nt

other blends: ft, mp, pt, rt