

Spelling Rules

In the English language, there are 6 basic rule patterns for spelling words. Every syllable in a word has a vowel. If you know these rules, you can read and/or write just about anything (including supercalifragilisticexpialidocious).

<p>Closed Syllable</p> <p>A single vowel closed in by two consonants. The vowel is usually short (says its sound but doesn't say its name).</p> <p>d<u>o</u>g c<u>a</u>t f<u>i</u>g b<u>e</u>d shr<u>u</u>b</p> <p>The way I describe this to my students is "the door is slammed shut on the vowel so the vowel doesn't get to run through the door screaming his name."</p>	<p>Open Syllable</p> <p>A single vowel is the last letter of a word or syllable. The vowel is usually long (says its name).</p> <p>h<u>e</u> h<u>i</u> g<u>o</u></p> <p>The way I describe this to my students is "the door is wide open so the vowel gets to run through the door screaming his name."</p>	<p>Silent E Syllable</p> <p>An "e" after a consonant at the end of a word make the vowel in the middle say its name.</p> <p>d<u>a</u>te p<u>i</u>pe h<u>o</u>pe r<u>u</u>de</p> <p>The way I describe this to my students is "the door is but the vowel gets to run through the door screaming his name because his buddy "e" pushes the door open."</p>
<p>Vowel Combination Syllable</p> <p>Two vowels next to each other in a syllable make one sound. Usually when 2 vowels go walking the first one does the talking (says its name).</p> <p>s<u>ai</u>l p<u>ea</u>k b<u>oa</u>t s<u>ui</u>t</p> <p>The way I describe this to my students is "the vowels are friends and the second one holds the door open for the first one to keep walking and talking through."</p>	<p>-e Syllable</p> <p>When a word ends in "le," the letter "e" at the end of the word is a silent "dummy" that helps make a syllable.</p> <p>l<u>i</u>t/le b<u>u</u>b/le t<u>a</u>/le</p> <p>The way I describe this to my students is "the "le" team up and pull the closest consonant away from the syllable. If there are 2 consonants, the first syllable will remain closed. If only one consonant, the first syllable will be left open."</p>	<p>R Controlled Syllable</p> <p>When a vowel is followed by an "r," the sound of the vowel is controlled by the /r/ sounds</p> <p>Her <u>fi</u>rst <u>n</u>urse <u>h</u>ardly <u>w</u>orked <u>e</u>arly <u>bi</u>rd hours.</p> <p>The way I describe this to my students is "the door is slammed shut on the vowel so the vowel doesn't get to run through the door screaming his name."</p>
<p>Vowel Combination Exceptions</p> <p>ow = ou (flower) or o (bowl)</p> <p>ea = e (heat) or e (head)</p> <p>oo = moon or book</p>	<p>C and G</p> <p>if followed by e, i, y = soft sound ("s or j")</p> <p>city or giant</p> <p>if followed by a, o, u = hard sound ("k or g")</p> <p>cake or gone</p> <p>Circus is the word I teach that shows both rules for "c"</p>	<p>Exceptions</p> <p>c<u>o</u>ld m<u>i</u>ld f<u>i</u>nd</p> <p>Based on the spelling these words are closed syllable words and the vowels should say their sounds not their names. They are rule breakers.</p>