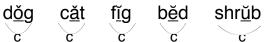
Spelling Rules

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).

Closed Syllable

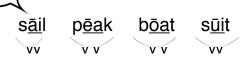
A single vowel closed in by two consonants. The vowel is usually short (says its sound but doesn't say its name).



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."

Vowel Combination Syllable

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). It's my



turn

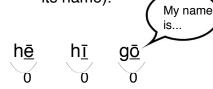
The way I describe this to my students is "the vowels are friends and the second one holds the door open for the first one to keep walking and talking through."

Vowel Combination Exceptions

ow = ou (flower) or \bar{o} (bowl) $ea = \bar{e}a$ (heat) or $\bar{e}a$ (head) oo = moon or book

Open Syllable

A single vowel is the last letter of a word or syllable. The vowel is usually long (says its name).



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."

I-e Syllable

end of the word is a silent "dummy" that helps make a syllable.

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.

C and G

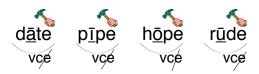
if followed by e, i, y = soft sound ("s or j") city or giant

if followed by a, o, u = hard sound ("k or q") cake or gone

Circus is the word I teach that shows both rules for "c"

Silent E Syllable

An "e" after a consonant at the end of a word make the vowel in the middle say its name.



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."

R Controlled Syllable

When a word ends in "le," the letter "e" at the When a vowel is followed by an "r," the sound of the vowel is controlled by the /r/ sounds



Her first nurse hardly worked early bird hours.

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."

Exceptions

cōld mīld fīnd

Based on the spelling these words are closed syllable words and the vowels should say their sounds not their names. They are rule breakers.