

LESSON 2:

CLOSED SYLLABLES

Host: In this video, we'll learn about consonant-vowel-consonant words that are also CVC syllables. A syllable is a word or word part that has only one vowel sound. A CVC syllable is also a closed syllable. There are three things to remember about closed syllables: it has only one vowel, a consonant closes in the vowel, and the vowel makes its short sound.

Teacher: A syllable is a word, or a part of a word, with one vowel sound. Listen as I demonstrate: *sun*. *Sun* is a syllable because it has one vowel sound, /u/. Read this word.

Yes, *hit*. Is *hit* a syllable?

Yes, it is a syllable because it has one vowel sound. Consonant-vowel-consonant, or CVC, words are a type of syllable called a closed syllable. Closed syllables can also be vowel-consonant. There are three things to remember about closed syllables. First, a closed syllable has just one vowel. Second, a consonant must close in the vowel at the end. Third, the vowel makes its short sound. What is the short sound for *i*?

That's right, /i/. You can remember it this way: A consonant closes in the vowel, so it can take only a short walk before it bumps into the consonant. So a vowel in a closed syllable makes its short sound.

Let's see whether this is a closed syllable. Does it have just one vowel?

Yes, just one vowel. Does a consonant close in the vowel?

Yes, so that means it is a closed syllable, because the vowel can go for only a short walk before bumping into the consonant. What sound does *e* make?

Yes, /e/. A vowel in a closed syllable makes its short sound. Please read the word.

Good, *hem*. Let's look at another word and determine whether it is a closed syllable. Is there just one vowel?

Yes. Does a consonant close in the vowel at the end?

No. This is not a closed syllable because a consonant does not close in the vowel at the end. Is there just one vowel in this word?

No. This is not a closed syllable because there are two vowels. Is there just one vowel?

Yes. Does a consonant close in the vowel at the end?

Yes. This is a closed syllable. There must be a consonant after the vowel for it to be a closed syllable, but there does not need to be a consonant in front of the vowel. What sound does the vowel make?

That's right, /a/. Very nice work using what you have learned about closed syllables. Remember, a closed syllable has only one vowel, a consonant closes in the vowel, and the vowel makes its short sound.

Host: Here's a strategy designed to help students spell CVC words or closed syllables:

Dictate the word.

Have the students repeat the word.

Have the students say each sound and count each sound.

Have the students say the letters.

Have the students write the letters while saying each letter name.

Have the students check by reading the word.

Teacher: Now, I will show you the steps to follow when you spell words. Listen. The first word is *fan*. What is the word?

Yes, *fan*. Next, I will count the sounds I hear in the word.

/f/ /a/ /n/: I hear three sounds. Next, I think about what letters make those sounds:
/f/-f, /a/-a, /n/-n.

Then, I say the letters while I write the word: *f, a, n*.

Finally, I check the word by reading it: *fan*.

Let's try another one. The word is *pod*. What word?

Yes, *pod*: /p/ /o/ /d/. How many sounds do you hear?

Yes, three sounds. What letters make those sounds? What letter says /d/?

Yes, that's right, *d* makes the /d/ sound. Now, let's say the letters while I write the word:
p, o, d.

Now, let's check the word by reading it.

Good, the word is *pod*. Let's try one more. The word is *rim*. What word?

Yes, *rim*: /r/ /i/ /m/. How many sounds do you hear?

Yes, three sounds. What letters make those sounds?

Right, /r/-*r*, /i/-*i*, /m/-*m*. Say the letters as you write the word: *r, i, m*. Now, check the word by reading it: *rim*.

Let's play a game to see how spellings change the pronunciation of words. I'm going to change just one letter of the word, and then you can tell me the new word. Listen carefully. The first word is *sip*.

Now, I'll change one letter to make the word *sit*.

Now, I'll change one letter, and you can tell me the new word.

Correct, the word is now *fit*.

Now, I'll change the *i* to an *a*. Tell me the word.

Correct, the word is *fat*. One more time—I'll change one letter, and you tell me the new word.

Good job! The word is *hat*.

Great job reading consonant-vowel-consonant words. Remember to pay attention to all of the letters to help you read and spell words correctly.

Host:

One way to demonstrate the connection between sounds and letters is to manipulate the words by changing one letter at a time, varying the position of the letter that changes—for example, *hut* to *rut* to *rot* to *lot* to *let* to *led* to *bed*. This helps students focus on each individual letter and its sound. If students are having a difficult time isolating sounds, you can scaffold by having students circle the letter that changed to make each new word.

Remember the three characteristics about a closed syllable. It has only one vowel, a consonant closes in the vowel, and the vowel makes its short sound.