

# Decoding Multisyllable Words

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_ / 12



## Quick Review

Long words can be easier to read if you **BREAK** them into syllables. A syllable is a chunk with a vowel sound. Look at the parts you already know — prefixes, suffixes, and root words — to help you read the whole word.

## PRACTICE

Break each long word into parts and choose the **BEST** answer.

1. How many syllables are in *elephant*?
  - A. one
  - B. two
  - C. three
  - D. four
2. How is *basketball* best broken into syllables?
  - A. bask / etball
  - B. bas / ket / ball
  - C. ba / sket / ball
  - D. basket / ball
3. Which is the **BEST** way to read the word *unhappiness*?
  - A. un-hap-pi-ness
  - B. u-n-h-a-p-p-i-n-e-s-s
  - C. unh-app-in-ess
  - D. un-happin-ess
4. How many syllables does *information* have?
  - A. two
  - B. three
  - C. four
  - D. five



5. Which word has THREE syllables?
- A. mountain
  - B. snowflake
  - C. elephant
  - D. tree
6. Read this long word by parts: *rebuilding*. Which BREAK is correct?
- A. reb-uild-ing
  - B. re-build-ing
  - C. re-bu-il-ding
  - D. reb-u-ild-ing
7. Which word has FOUR syllables?
- A. volcano
  - B. celebration
  - C. important
  - D. remember
8. Break this word by parts: *uncomfortable*
- A. un-com-fort-a-ble
  - B. unc-omf-ort-able
  - C. u-ncom-fortab-le
  - D. unco-mfort-able
9. Why is it helpful to break long words into parts?
- A. It makes the words shorter on the page.
  - B. It helps a reader sound out and understand the word.
  - C. It changes the meaning of the word.
  - D. It makes every long word easy to spell.
10. Which word has the FEWEST syllables?
- A. beautiful
  - B. important
  - C. school
  - D. remember
11. Write the syllables of *butterfly* with dashes between them: \_\_\_\_\_
- Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



12. Which strategy helps MOST when you see a long word you don't know?
- A. skip it and move on
  - B. look for word parts you know and read them one chunk at a time
  - C. guess based on the first letter
  - D. read the page from the end to the start



## Answer Keys

- 1  A  B  C  D
- 2  A  B  C  D
- 3  A  B  C  D
- 4  A  B  C  D
- 5  A  B  C  D
- 6  A  B  C  D

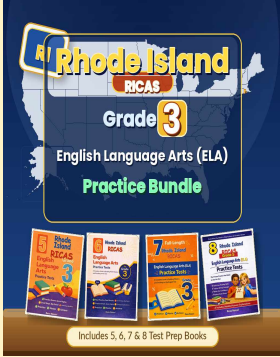
- 7  A  B  C  D
- 8  A  B  C  D
- 9  A  B  C  D
- 10  A  B  C  D
- 11
- 12  A  B  C  D

### Explanations

1. C	el / e / phant = 3 syllables. Each chunk has one vowel sound.
2. B	Three clear syllables: bas-ket-ball. Compound words split between root parts and inside each root.
3. A	Pull off the prefix (un-) and the suffix (-ness), then read the middle. The others either spell letter by letter or split in odd places.
4. C	in-for-ma-tion = 4 syllables.
5. C	Elephant = el-e-phant (3). Mountain = moun-tain (2), snowflake = snow-flake (2), tree = 1.
6. B	Prefix (re-), root (build), suffix (-ing). The others ignore the word parts.
7. B	cel-e-bra-tion = 4 syllables. Volcano = vol-ca-no (3); important = 3; remember = 3.
8. A	Prefix (un-) + comfort + -able. The others ignore real chunks of the word.
9. B	Splitting into chunks helps decoding. A is not the point; C is wrong; D is too strong.
10. C	School = 1 syllable. The others have 3 or more.
11. but-ter-fly	Three clear syllables.
12. B	Chunking is the strategy. Skipping skips meaning; first-letter guessing is unreliable; reading backward changes nothing.



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