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-iness
- **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	7	A	**B**	C	D
2	A	**B**	C	D	8	**A**	B	C	D
3	**A**	B	C	D	9	A	**B**	C	D
4	A	B	**C**	D	10	A	B	**C**	D
5	A	B	**C**	D	11	but-ter-fly			
6	A	**B**	C	D	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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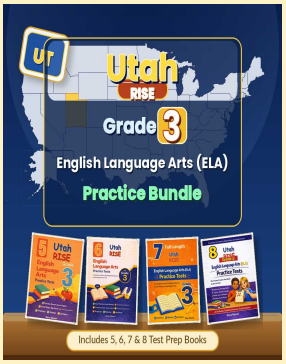

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