

Decoding Multisyllable Words

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: ____ / 10



Quick Review

Break a long word into syllables to read it. Each syllable has one vowel sound. Look for prefixes, roots, and suffixes to help you decode.

PART 1 — READ

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Quick Review: Six Syllable Types

Open syllables end in a long vowel (he, pa-per). Closed syllables end in a consonant and have a short vowel (cat, nap-kin). VCe syllables have a silent e (cake, in-vite). Cle syllables end in -le (ta-ble, jun-gle). R-controlled syllables have a vowel + r (bird, gar-den). Vowel-team syllables have two vowels working together (rain, boat).

When you meet a long word, look for prefixes (un-, re-, pre-), suffixes (-ing, -tion, -able), and a root in the middle. Split the word, sound each part, then blend the parts back together.

PART 2 — PRACTICE

Choose the best answer or write the answer on the line.

- How many syllables are in the word magnificent?
 - 4
 - 3
 - 5
 - 2
- Which shows the correct syllable split for transportation?
 - trans-port-a-tion
 - tran-spor-ta-tion
 - trans-por-ta-tion
 - trans-por-tat-ion
- Which word is made of a prefix + root + suffix (all three)?
 - happily
 - replay
 - kingdom
 - unbelievable



4. In the word napkin, the first syllable nap is which type?
 - A. open syllable
 - B. closed syllable
 - C. VCe syllable
 - D. r-controlled syllable
5. In the word paper, the first syllable pa is which type?
 - A. open
 - B. closed
 - C. Cle
 - D. vowel-team
6. Which word contains a Cle (consonant + -le) syllable?
 - A. garden
 - B. pumpkin
 - C. rainbow
 - D. table
7. Which word contains an r-controlled syllable?
 - A. happen
 - B. pillow
 - C. master
 - D. cabin
8. Which is the correct way to break illustration into syllables?
 - A. il-lus-tra-tion
 - B. il-lust-ra-tion
 - C. il-lus-trat-ion
 - D. illus-tra-tion
9. Which word has exactly 3 syllables?
 - A. garden
 - B. wonderful
 - C. television
 - D. anniversary
10. Write the prefix in the word unbelievable.

Answer: _____



Answer Keys

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Explanations	
1. A	mag-nif-i-cent has 4 syllables. Three would miss the -i- syllable; five would over-split; two is far too few for a four-vowel-sound word.
2. C	Split between the prefix trans-, then por-ta-, then the -tion suffix: trans-por-ta-tion. A keeps -tion but mis-splits the middle; B breaks the prefix trans-; D splits inside the suffix -tion, which always stays together.
3. D	Un- (prefix) + believe (root) + -able (suffix). Happily = root + suffix only. Replay = prefix + root only. Kingdom = root + suffix only.
4. B	Nap ends in a consonant and has a short a, so it is closed. Open ends in a long vowel; VCe needs a silent e; r-controlled needs a vowel + r.
5. A	Pa ends in a vowel that says its long name, so it is open. It does not end in a consonant (closed), in -le (Cle), or contain two vowels together (vowel-team).
6. D	Ta-ble ends in the Cle syllable -ble. Garden = r-controlled + closed; pumpkin = closed + closed; rainbow = vowel-team + open. None of those end in -le.
7. C	Mas-ter — the second syllable -ter is r-controlled (e + r). Happen = closed + closed; pillow = closed + open; cabin = closed + closed. None of those have a vowel + r working together.
8. A	Double letters split between them (il-lus), the blend tr stays together (tra), and the suffix -tion is its own syllable: il-lus-tra-tion. B breaks the blend tr; C splits inside -tion; D fails to split the double l.
9. B	Won-der-ful = 3 syllables. The distractors are different lengths so the count is unambiguous: garden = 2 (gar-den); television = 4 (tel-e-vi-sion); anniversary = 5 (an-ni-ver-sa-ry). Only wonderful has exactly 3.
10. un-	Un- is the prefix; it means 'not.' Accept 'un-' or 'un' — do not accept 'unbelieve' (that includes the root) or '-able' (that is the suffix).

