

# Handouts

## UNIT 5, MODULE 1: Identifying Syllable Structures



## TEKS Connections

The word study skills in this module correlate to those taught in the elective reading course; the standards for this course are found in the Reading (Elective Credit) section of the TEKS. These skills also are taught in English language arts courses in the earlier grades, but middle school readers often struggle because they have not mastered these skills, among others.

### *Reading Elective Credit (Grades 6–8)*

- (1) The student uses a variety of word recognition strategies. The student is expected to:
- (A) apply knowledge of letter-sound correspondences, language structure, and context to recognize words; and
  - (B) use dictionaries, glossaries, and other sources to confirm pronunciations and meanings of unfamiliar words.

SOURCE: Texas Education Agency (TEA), 2008.

## English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS) Connections

- 4(A) learn relationships between sounds and letters of the English language and decode (sound out) words using a combination of skills such as recognizing sound-letter relationships and identifying cognates, affixes, roots, and base words

SOURCE: TEA, 2007.



# A Schoolwide Reading Intervention Approach for Middle School

	TIER I	TIER II	TIER III
	Strong Schoolwide Foundation & Content Area Strategies and Routines	Strategic Intervention	Intensive Intervention
<b>Definition</b>	Strong core instruction that includes cross-curricular academic literacy support for all students; implemented within a safe and positive school environment in which there is a schoolwide commitment to excellence	Reading classes or small-group instruction specifically designed to accelerate the reading growth of students with marked reading difficulties	Specifically designed and customized reading instruction delivered in small groups or individually to students with serious and persistent reading difficulties
<b>Students</b>	All students in content area classes	Students with marked reading difficulties	Students with severe and persistent reading difficulties; students who do not make sufficient progress in strategic intervention
<b>Focus</b>	Academic vocabulary and comprehension of academic text	Multisyllable word recognition, fluency, vocabulary, reading comprehension	Word study, word recognition, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension; individualized to address specific needs of the students
<b>Program</b>	General education curriculum with research-based vocabulary and comprehension instructional routines	Specialized, scientific research-based reading program(s) emphasizing word recognition, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension	Specialized, systematic, scientific research-based reading program(s) emphasizing the specific areas of need of individual students

	TIER I	TIER II	TIER III
	Strong Schoolwide Foundation & Content Area Strategies and Routines	Strategic Intervention	Intensive Intervention
<b>Instruction</b>	Sequenced and scaffolded instruction that makes the curriculum accessible to all students	Carefully designed and implemented explicit, systematic instruction	Carefully designed and implemented explicit, systematic instruction
<b>Teachers</b>	Science, social studies, math, reading, English language arts, and co-curricular teachers	Intervention provided by personnel determined by the school; usually a reading teacher or other interventionist	Intensive intervention provided by personnel determined by the school; usually a reading teacher or other interventionist
<b>Setting</b>	General education content area classrooms	Appropriate setting designated by the school; usually the reading class or supplemental tutoring	Appropriate setting designated by the school
<b>Class size</b>	Heterogeneous and flexible groups within typical class sizes	Homogeneous instruction provided to small groups	Homogeneous instruction provided to very small groups
<b>Time</b>	In all content area classes throughout the school day	At least 50 minutes per day	At least 50 minutes per day
<b>Assessment</b>	Schoolwide benchmark assessments at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year	Diagnostic assessment to determine the focus and pacing of instruction; progress monitoring twice a month on target skills to ensure adequate progress and learning	Diagnostic assessment to determine the focus and pacing of instruction; progress monitoring twice a month on target skills to better individualize instruction for students who do not demonstrate adequate growth

Adapted with permission from Vaughn Gross Center for Reading and Language Arts at The University of Texas at Austin, 2005.

# Syllable Types

## CLOSED SYLLABLE

A closed syllable has one vowel that is closed in by a consonant. The vowel sound is short. (VC, CVC, CCVC, CVCC, or CCVCC)

### Language Arts:

Index

Poet

Edit

Predict

Conept

Literature

Relationship

### Social Studies:

West

Taft

Empire

Modern

Populist

Democratic

Independent

### Math:

Sum

Add

Subtract

Figure

Factor

Object

Investigate

### Science:

Rust

Energy

Property

Interact

Element

Temperature

Electromagnetic

## OPEN SYLLABLE

An open syllable has one vowel that occurs at the end of the syllable. The vowel sound is long. (CV or CCV)

### Language Arts:

Poet

Student

Pronoun

Predict

Autobiography

Comprehensive

Relationship

### Social Studies:

Triumph

Migrate

Nation

Review

Reform

Develop

Independent

### Math:

Meter

Below

Table

Result

Describe

Equation

Denominator

### Science:

Science

Lunar

Resource

Climate

Volcano

Reflection

Electromagnetic



**VOWEL-CONSONANT-E SYLLABLE**

A VC-e syllable (silent-e syllable) ends with an *e*, has one consonant before the *e*, and has one vowel before the consonant. The vowel sound is long, and the *e* is silent. (VC-e or CVC-e)

**Language Arts:**TaleWriteThemeDescribeIntroduceForeshadowVisualize**Social Studies:**MineRiseEmpireSafeguardDebatePopulateEnterprise**Math:**CubeScoreShapeDivideAlikeEvaluateInvestigate**Science:**PlateWaveExploreNatureCombinePolluteCreate

## VOWEL PAIRS or TEAMS

A vowel pair syllable has two vowels together that make one vowel sound.

### Language Arts:

Read

Goal

Meaning

Speaking

Detail

Proofread

Main Character

### Social Studies:

Greek

Speech

Peace

Launch

Freadom

Sweatshop

Bernstein

### Math:

Paid

Mean

Speed

Pie

Feature

Explain

Reason

### Science:

Stream

Toad

Heat

Sea

Beat

Lead

Rain

**R-CONTROLLED VOWELS**

An *r*-controlled syllable contains a vowel followed by an *r*. This combination makes a unique sound.  
(*V-r*)

**Language Arts:**InformAuthorTheaterNarratorCharacterPerspectiveFigurative**Social Studies:**FarmMarketAccordModernAnarchistApartheidAffirmative**Math:**PartPercentPatternEnlargeFactorSimilarPerimeter**Science:**SulfurCarbonEnergyParticleConservationZirconiumBerkelium

## CONSONANT-*LE* SYLLABLE

A consonant-*le* syllable has a consonant followed by *le*. The vowel sound in this syllable is the schwa sound followed by the *l* sound. The *e* is silent. (-C+*le*)

### Language Arts:

Title

Fable

People

Principle

Article

Example

Participle

### Social Studies:

Settle

Cattle

Struggle

Battle

Settlement

Spindletop

Profitable

### Math:

Single

Double

Couple

Middle

Puzzle

Possible

Triangle

### Science:

Turtle

Tremble

Beetle

Mantle

Needleleaf

Predictable

Adaptable

## Silent-e Syllable Words

### Practice 1

home

hop

nine

hope

size

blame

age

win

quote

whine

use

### Practice 2

cupcake

nickname

cascade

embrace

overrule

makeshift

### Practice 3

cell

spine

stem

dendrite

reflex



# Instruction in Syllable Types

## Sequence of types

Closed syllables

Open syllables

Vowel-consonant-*e* syllables

*R*-controlled syllables

Vowel pair syllables

Consonant-*le* syllables

Irregular words of each syllable structure

## Routine for instruction

1. Provide multiple opportunities to practice identifying a syllable type in one-syllable words.
2. Gradually increase practice in a syllable type to include two-syllable words and then multi-syllable words.
3. Ask: Do I need to divide this word into different syllables?
  - a. If no: Why not?
  - b. If yes: Where? Why?
4. Ask: What is the syllable type?
  - a. What are the characteristics of that syllable type?
  - b. What does it tell me about the vowel sound?
5. Say each syllable out loud slowly.
6. Put the syllables together and say the whole word.
7. Provide cumulative reviews of the syllable types.
  - a. Word sorts
  - b. Manipulating words to divide between syllables
  - c. Manipulating words to add or remove letters that change the syllable type (e.g., *pin* to *pine*; *so* to *soft*; *bell* to *be*)
  - d. Practicing with regular and irregular words









## Scaffolding the Identification of Syllable Types

- Whenever appropriate, have students identify the syllable types when students encounter unfamiliar words in their reading.
- If students do not recognize the syllable types or know the vowel sounds, return to explicitly teaching them.
- Gradually increase the length and complexity of application words on which students practice.
- Challenge students to find additional examples of the syllable types in words students encounter.
- Teach students how to divide the syllables in a word.
- Teach preskills (e.g., short vowels, long vowels, consonant blends, consonant digraphs, diphthongs, more complex phonics such as *-igh*).

Additional tools and resources available at:

- [www.searchlight.utexas.org](http://www.searchlight.utexas.org)
- [www.fcrr.org](http://www.fcrr.org)
- <http://txesla.net>



# Rules of Syllable Division

Every syllable must have a vowel in it.

## Two Consonants (VCCV)

Divide between two consonants.

**hap pen      cat nip**

Keep digraphs together.

**rock et**

A blend may stay together in the second syllable, especially if there is a prefix in the first syllable.

**pro gram      re spond**

Divide just before the consonant in a word ending in the syllable consonant-*e*.

**bu gle      sta ple**

## Three Consonants (VCCCV)

Keep digraphs together.

**eth nic      bath tub**

Blend stays together in the second syllable.

**mat tress      hun dred**

If the word is a compound word, split between the two words.

(The blend may be in the first syllable.)

**hand bag      chest nut**

Divide just before the consonant in a word ending in the syllable consonant-*e*.

**jug le      rum ble**

## Four Consonants (VCCCCV)

Divide between digraphs and blends.

**wing span      sling shot**

Watch for three-letter blends in the second syllable.

**con struct      in struct**



## Six Syllable Types: Practice

### Directions:

Identify the syllable types underlined in the following words. The first word is done for you.

P o e t

Open    Closed

F a b l e

I n d e p e n d e n t

L u n a r

D e b a t e

E x p l a i n

M a r k e t





F a b l e

I n d e p e n d e n t

L u n a r

D e b a t e



Explain

Market

Fable

Independent



Lunar

Debate

Explain

Market



I n d e p e n d e n t

I n d e p e n d e n t





# Guidelines for Reviewing a Reading Program

## Introduction

This document was developed to assist the Curriculum and Instruction Team at the Florida Center for Reading Research (FCRR) as they review reading programs for grades 4–12 to determine alignment with current reading research.

## Process of Using Guidelines

When reviewing a reading program thoroughly, it is not sufficient to examine only a sample of lessons. In order to determine whether a program is aligned with current reading research, it is essential to review all the teacher and student materials. This document was developed to help navigate a reviewer through the lengthy but important process of reviewing a reading program. It was designed to be utilized in conjunction with the resources listed below. When using this document, place a check mark in either the yes or no column after each question. If the answer is not clear or not evident, write “not evident” in the comments column and leave the yes/no columns blank. It is very important to use the comments column to detail specific examples, note questions, etc. When a question is marked “no” or “not evident,” it is a concern that the program may not be aligned with current reading research. That is, if a reading program is aligned with current reading research, then “yes” will be marked on all of the questions with evidence to support this assertion written in the comments column.

Note that this document includes the sequence of instruction from 4th through 12th grade.

It is expected that a comprehensive reading program will incorporate the five components of reading identified by the National Reading Panel (phonological/phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension) and reflect the elements of instructional design.

The following resources on the FCRR Web site ([www.fcrr.org](http://www.fcrr.org)) will assist educators who use this tool to guide their review of a reading program:

- Glossary of Reading Terms (boldface words in the Guidelines are in the Glossary).
- Continuum of Phonological Awareness Skills.
- Continuum of Word Types.
- FCRR Reports (reviews of reading programs already posted).
- References and Resources for Review of Reading Programs.

The guidelines begin on the next page.

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Overall Instructional Design and Pedagogy of the Reading Program			
Characteristic	Yes	No	Comments (e.g., specific examples, strengths, concerns, questions)
Is there a clear “road map” or “blueprint” for teachers to get an overall picture of the program (e.g., scope and sequence)?			
Are goals and objectives clearly stated?			
Are there resources available to help the teacher understand the rationale for the instructional approach and strategies utilized in the program (e.g., articles, references, and reliable Web sites)?			
Is instruction consistently explicit?			
Is instruction consistently systematic?			
Is there a coherent instructional design (e.g., are the components of reading clearly linked within as well as across each component)?			
Are there consistent “teacher-friendly” instructional routines that include direct instruction, modeling, guided practice, student practice and application with feedback, and generalization?			
Are there aligned student materials?			
Does the difficulty of the text increase as students’ skills strengthen?			
Are there ample guided student practice opportunities, including multiple opportunities for explicit teaching and teacher directed feedback, (15 or more) needed for struggling readers?			
Are all of the activities (e.g., centers) reading related (i.e., word-building, fluency practice)?			
Are teachers encouraged to give immediate corrective feedback?			
Is scaffolding a prominent part of the lessons?			
Are there specific instructions for scaffolding?			
Is differentiated instruction prominent?			
Is instruction individualized based on assessment?			
Are there guidelines and materials for flexible grouping?			
Is small-group instruction with (small teacher-pupil ratio) part of daily instruction?			
Is movement from group to group based on student progress?			
Are enrichment activities included for advancing/proceeding students?			
In addition to the components of reading, are the dimensions of spelling, writing, oral language, motivation/engagement and listening comprehension addressed?			

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Word Analysis (WA) Instruction/Word Study Phonological analysis, decoding, structural analysis, syllabication, context clues, spelling, & dictionary skills			
Characteristic	Yes	No	Comments (e.g., specific examples, strengths, concerns, questions)
Overall, does instruction progress from easier word analysis activities to more difficult?			
Is word analysis only a small portion of each lesson (10 to 20 minutes)?			
Does the program emphasize the use of grade-appropriate dictionaries and student-friendly explanations?			
Is there explicit instruction in the use and weaknesses of context clues to determine word meaning?			
Is explicit instruction in the meaning of roots and affixes provided and are there activities for students to manipulate common roots and affixes to analyze the relationship of spelling to meaning of complex words?			
Are word parts that occur with high frequency (such as un, re, and in) introduced over those that occur in only a few words?			
Are the limitations of structural analysis made clear?			
Are there activities for distinguishing and interpreting words with multiple meanings?			
Does the program include word origins, derivations, synonyms, antonyms, and idioms to determine the meaning of words and phrases?			
Are words used in word analysis activities also found in the student text?			
Once word analysis strategies have been mastered, are these strategies immediately applied to reading and interpreting familiar decodable connected text?			
Is there ample unfamiliar decodable text to provide practice with word analysis strategies?			
Are there ample opportunities to read multisyllabic words daily?			
Is there a section of the program devoted to word study?			
Does the program include spelling strategies (e.g., word sorts, categorization activities, word-building activities, analogical reasoning activities)?			

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Fluency Instruction			
Characteristic	Yes	No	Comments (e.g., specific examples, strengths, concerns, questions)
Is fluency building a part of each day's lesson?			
Does fluency-based instruction focus on developing accuracy, rate, and prosody?			
Do fluency-building routines include goal setting to measure and increase word-level fluency instruction and practice, reading accuracy and passage reading rate, teacher or peer feedback, and timed readings?			
Is fluency assessed regularly?			
Is there a fluency goal for each set of grade levels (e.g., 4-5 [113-127 wpm], 6-8 [140-142 wpm])? (Based on Hasbrouk and Tindal's end-of-the-year oral reading fluency scores at the 40th percentile.)			
Are ample practice materials and opportunities at appropriate reading levels (independent and/or instructional) provided?			
Are there opportunities to read narrative and expository text aloud?			
Are research-based fluency strategies included (e.g., repeated reading, peer reading, tape-assisted reading, choral reading, student-adult reading)?			

Vocabulary Instruction			
Characteristic	Yes	No	Comments (e.g., specific examples, strengths, concerns, questions)
Is there a component that incorporates reading and writing vocabulary?			
Is systematic and explicit instruction in morphemic analysis provided to support building word meaning through knowledge of root words, prefixes, and suffixes?			
Is high-level terminology used to bring richness of language to the classroom?			
Are there ample activities provided to practice writing vocabulary in context?			
Are there opportunities for wide, independent reading?			
Is there repeated exposure to vocabulary in many contexts?			

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Vocabulary Instruction			
Characteristic	Yes	No	Comments (e.g., specific examples, strengths, concerns, questions)
Is there frequent use of teacher read-alouds using engaging books with embedded explanation and instruction?			
Is diverse vocabulary through listening and reading stories and informational text provided?			
Are a limited number of words selected for robust, explicit vocabulary instruction?			
Do sources of vocabulary instruction include words from read-aloud stories, words from core reading programs, words from reading intervention programs, and words from content area instruction?			
Are only important (words students must know to understand a concept or text), useful (words that may be encountered many times), and difficult (multiple meanings, idioms) words taught?			
Are vocabulary words reviewed cumulatively? For example, are words selected for instruction that are unknown, critical to passage understanding, and likely to be encountered in the future?			
Are ample opportunities to engage in oral vocabulary activities provided?			
Are student-friendly explanations as well as dictionary definitions used?			
Are word-learning strategies taught?			
Does the instructional routine for vocabulary include: introducing the word, presenting a student-friendly explanation, illustrating the word with examples, and checking the students' understanding?			
Are ample opportunities to use word-learning strategies provided?			
Is word awareness introduced through the use of word walls; vocabulary logs; and practice activities that are engaging, provide multiple exposures, encourage deep processing, and connect word meaning to prior knowledge?			
Is vocabulary taught both directly and indirectly?			
Are rich contexts for vocabulary learning provided?			
Are repetition and multiple exposures to vocabulary items prevalent?			
Are vocabulary tasks restructured when necessary?			
Is computer technology used to help teach vocabulary?			

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Comprehension Instruction			
Characteristic	Yes	No	Comments (e.g., specific examples, strengths, concerns, questions)
Is comprehension monitoring taught?			
Is the use of multiple strategies prevalent?			
Are cooperative learning groups part of instruction?			
Are frequent opportunities to answer and generate questions provided?			
Are graphic and semantic organizers, including story maps, used?			
Are there ample opportunities to engage in discussions relating to the meaning of text?			
Are there ample opportunities to read narrative and expository text on independent and instructional levels?			
Is explicit instruction in different text structures included?			
Are before-, during- and after-reading comprehension strategies emphasized?			
Is prior knowledge activated before reading?			
Are ample opportunities provided to generate questions during reading to improve engagement with and processing of text?			
Are there ample opportunities to employ a conceptual understanding of beginning, middle, and end in narrative text?			
Is learning to determine which strategy to use and why (metacognition) part of instruction?			
Are connections made between previously learned strategies and new text?			
Are strategies applied for authentic purposes using appropriate text?			
Is there an emphasis on creating independent strategic learners?			
Is strategy instruction cumulative over the course of the year?			
Are there frequent opportunities to discuss story elements and compare stories?			
Are elements of story grammar (setting, characters, important events, etc.) used for retelling a story?			
Are summarization strategies taught?			
Are opportunities provided to interpret information from charts, graphs, tables, and diagrams and connect it to text?			
Does text contain familiar concepts and vocabulary?			
Are main idea strategies previously taught (e.g., using pictures, then individual sentence, then paragraphs, etc.)?			

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Comprehension Instruction			
Characteristic	Yes	No	Comments (e.g., specific examples, strengths, concerns, questions)
Are ample opportunities to employ main idea strategies using more complex texts, where the main idea is not explicit, provided?			

Listening Comprehension			
Characteristic	Yes	No	Comments (e.g., specific examples, strengths, concerns, questions)
Is there an element of the program that requires students to follow specific oral directions in order to perform or complete written activities?			
Are ample opportunities to utilize listening comprehension strategies provided?			
Are there ample opportunities to listen to a variety of text structures?			
Are there ample opportunities to use reflective (describing feelings/emotions that accompany what is said instead of information given) and responsive (e.g., repeating, paraphrasing, summarizing, questioning for elaboration and/or clarification) listening skills to make connections and build on ideas of the author?			

Motivation and Engagement			
Characteristic	Yes	No	Comments (e.g., specific examples, strengths, concerns, questions)
Is there a component of the program that fosters intrinsic motivation in students (e.g., student selection of books, various genres of book titles, multicultural/international book titles)?			
Are there clear content goals for supporting intrinsic reading motivation?			
Is there a component of the program that fosters extrinsic motivation in students (e.g., external recognition, rewards, or incentives)?			
Are there ample opportunities for students to engage in group activities (social motivation)?			
Are there personal learning goals provided for reading tasks?			
Are students given immediate feedback on reading progress?			

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Assessment			
Characteristic	Yes	No	Comments (e.g., specific examples, strengths, concerns, questions)
Is rigorous assessment included in the program?			
Is formative evaluation included?			
Are the assessment instruments reliable and valid?			
Do the assessments measure progress in word analysis, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension?			
Do the assessments identify students who are at risk or already experiencing difficulty learning to read?			
Does assessment aid teachers in making individualized instruction decisions?			
Does the program provide teacher guidance in response to assessment results?			

Professional Development for the Reading Program			
Characteristic	Yes	No	Comments (e.g., specific examples, strengths, concerns, questions)
Is there adequate time offered for teachers to learn new concepts and practice what they have learned (before implementation)?			
Is there a plan for coaches, mentors, peers, or outside experts to provide feedback to teachers and follow up assistance as they put new concepts into practice?			
Are teachers taught how to administer and interpret assessments that accompany the program?			
Is PD for the program customized to meet the varying needs of the participants (e.g., first-year teachers, coaches, principals)?			
Does the PD provide support (e.g., principal checklists, follow-up in class modeling, a video/CD for teachers to view modeled lessons, printed teaching charts, graphs, transparencies) to facilitate application of content?			

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## Unit 5: Word Study Module 1: Identifying Syllable Structures

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