

The second most commonly used syllable type is called a "Closed Syllable". These syllables have only one vowel at the beginning or in the middle of the word or syllable. The vowel sound has a short sound.

Fi / do is a big he / ro.
O O C C O O

CLOSED syllables are labelled with a breve above the vowel making the short vowel sound and an upper case "C" under the vowel.



hat top inch stretch
C C C C

The final letter(s) in these words force us to stop and say the sounds they make. Do you remember the chameleon? The environment or surroundings have changed. The vowel sound has now changed.

Your turn! Label the sentence below. Don't forget about boxed words. Any syllable or word that does not follow the CLOVER pattern is boxed. No peeking!

Fi / do is a big he / ro.

Look at the next page and see how well you did.

How did you do? There are a couple of words that may have given you a problem. Let's break down each word of the sentence .

'Fido' is quite easy. The word is divided into syllables for you. Both vowels take on a long vowel sound. They are marked as open syllables.

The word 'is' is a decodable word. The 'i' in 'is' can be decoded. Don't let the 's' confuse you. "IS" may be considered a sight word if the sound of / z / spelled with an 's' has not been taught. For now, let's focus on the vowels. In 'is', the 'i' has a short sound and labelled as closed.

The word 'a' is boxed. It is actually pronounced / ũ /, not / ā /. The word 'a' is usually labelled in the dictionary as a schwa sound. When in doubt - look it up! A dictionary right about now would be very handy. Don't be afraid to look up simple words.

Just as in 'Fido', 'hero' follows the same pattern. Both syllables are open.

Don't worry. You'll get more chances to practice. You don't need to get it right the first time. By the time you're done , you'll be a CLOVER marking champion!



NOT ALL SYLLABLES will fall into a CLOVER category. These words are often called the exceptions, rule breakers, red words, outlaw words, pirate words and a multitude of other titles. It is recommended that you find out what name your child's teacher uses, and use that. No matter what these types of words are called, they will be marked by drawing a box around them.

Most sight words are prime examples of boxed words; such as *the*, *do*, *to*, and *a*. By themselves or when found in a sentence, these words would look like:



If a child comes across a syllable or word that uses a vowel pattern that is unfamiliar or has not been taught, he would box it.

Vowel teams make up the fourth most commonly used syllable pattern. Vowel teams consist of two or more letters together that make one sound.

Label vowel teams with a 'V' under the letters that make the one sound.

There are two types of vowel teams: **regular** and **irregular**.

Regular vowel teams take on the long vowel sound of the first vowel (sometimes called predictable vowel teams).

boat paint meat

Irregular vowel teams (also called diphthongs have their own unique sound.

toy point ought



Earn a starting position on the Vowel Team. CLOVER mark this sentence.

**Dean has a green
and blue sailboat.**



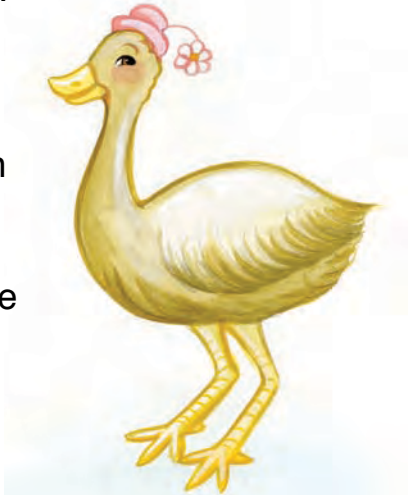
The long vowel sounds are quite easy. They simply say their own name. The long vowel sounds are: / ā / as in Amy the angel, / ē / as in Edith the emu, / ī / as in I am I, / ō / as in O.K., and / ū / as in unicorn in tulips.

The letter 'y', when used as a consonant, is quite straight forward. Its sound is like that in "yellow yarn". "Y" can also be used as a vowel. When 'y' is found at the end of a one-syllable word, it will usually take the / ī / sound (by, my, cry).

At the end of a two or more syllable word, the 'y' will take the / ē / sound (lady, ivy, very).

In later VoWac® skill levels, students will learn that 'y' between two consonants will usually take the / ī / sound. They will also be introduced to the 'y' in an R-control syllable

Notice the markings over the short and long vowel. The marking above the short vowel sound is called a breve (ă). The long vowel mark is called a macron (ā).



Try these words:

rob / in

Ne / bras / ka

a / bout

robin

Nebraska

about

The 'in' in the word 'robin' is usually pronounced as / ũn /, seldom / ĩn /. But the 'rob' in 'robin' is pronounced / rob /. There is not much of a question on the pronunciation

The same holds true for 'Nebraska'. It is not pronounced / nē • brās • kā /. It is pronounced / nū • brās • kū /, with the accent on the second syllable. (The first and last syllable actually contain the schwa sound, which is like a guttural short 'u' sound.) It is the second syllable that has the truest CLOVER marking and that is the syllable that is voiced with more stress.

Here's another way to identify an accented or stressed syllable in a word. Place your hand under your chin just like the woman in the picture. Now say the words from above: robin Nebraska about



Do you feel where your jaw drops? When saying a word, whichever syllable your jaw drops the furthest will be the accented syllable. This should be true for every word in the English language!

OG has proven to be one of the most effective teaching approaches over the last seven or eight decades. It is especially effective when teaching to dyslexics of all ages.

If you would like more information on learning modalities and their characteristics, *Growing Up Learning*,

by Dr. Walter Barbe, is available exclusively through VoWac®.

One of the tools available in *Growing Up Learning*, is a set of checklists for various ages that will help identify your own modality as well as your child's.



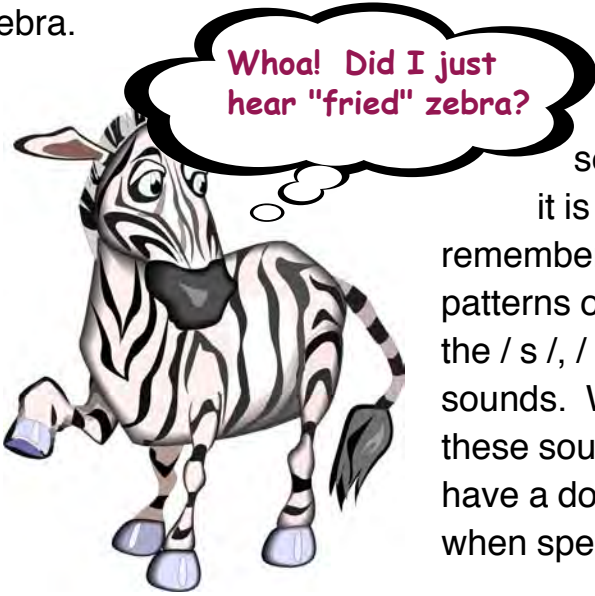
Your modality and your child's modality may not be the same.

Please feel free to contact VoWac® for a variety of informational and teaching resources that can be used at home. We are a telephone call away to answer your questions or direct you to someone who might better assist you.

Your child will also learn consistent spelling patterns for /k/ sound using the letters 'ck'. It will help to know when you come to the /k/ sound in a one-syllable word with a short vowel sound, the /k/ will be spelled with a 'ck'. The catch phrase taught in school will be " -ck , /k/, after one short vowel in a one-syllble word."

Sam Likes Fried Zebra

Your child will be introduced to Sam, who likes fried zebra.



As silly as the sentence may sound, it is only used to help remember the spelling patterns of words ending with the / s /, / l /, / f /, and / z / sounds. Words that end with these sounds will usually have a double 's', 'l', 'f', or 'z', when spelled out.

Jake and June will bike to Grove Lake.
 Dean has a green and blue sailboat.
 Barb runs the supermarket on the corner.
 Tickle a poodle and see her wiggle.

