

6 Main Syllabication Rules

Rule 1: When there are two consonants between two vowels, divide between them (usually).

EXAMPLE: WIN-DOW LET-TER HUS-BAND

Rule 2: When there is only one consonant between two vowels, divide before the consonant (usually).

EXAMPLE: TI-GER SO-LO SPI-DER

Rule 3: Most words ending in “le” put the preceding consonant with the “le”.

EXAMPLE: SIM-PLE STAR-TLE LIT-TLE

Rule 4: The “ed” ending is a separate syllable on root words ending in D or T

EXAMPLE: TEST-ED BOND-ED HOUND-ED

(“ed” endings are not separate syllables on most words which do not end in T or D. Example: Walked Raised Bumped Toned)

Rule 5: The adding of a suffix does not generally change the syllable division of a root word.

EXAMPLE: IM-PROV-ING FAM-ISH-ING

Rule 6: Certain letter groups must not be separated.

EXAMPLE: AI – BAILING OU – SCOURGING EW – RENEWAL

Blends such as EMBRACE BETWEEN IMPLICIT

Placing the Accent

In most words, place the accent on the stem. When there is no prefix, the first part of the word is the stem and will receive the accent.

Other Accent Patterns

I. More than two syllable words ending in silent e.

Cross off the silent e, and count back three vowel sounds. The accent usually falls on that third syllable:

3 2 1
D E L I C A T E

*If you add a suffix to such word, the accent pattern remains the same.

*When the same word serves as two different parts of speech the verb will have the accent on the stem and the noun will be accented on the prefix:

reb'el **re bel'**

II. Suffix ity:

The accent falls always on the syllable just ahead of it

Real'ity

*In the plural, these words will read -ities. The accent will be the same – on the vowel before it.

III. Suffixes ic and ical

The accent falls on the syllable just before either suffix.

eccen-tric **grammat-ical**

IV. Connectives i, u, ul, and ol between the stem and suffix of a word:

The accent usually falls on the vowel directly ahead of them.

O be' di ent **vio' o lent**

V. The suffix -oon always has the accent on it:

Balloon' **Cartoon'**

VI. The suffixes ti, si, ci, and xi sounding like /sh/:

*The accent is always on the vowel which precedes the /sh/, except in the words ending in -ity, when the accent comes just before the -ity

spe-cial **partia-lity**

VII. The accent is always before the /sh/ or /zh/ :

oc ca' sion /shun/ **ex pa'n sion /shun/**