



# Reading Skills

## Christmas Special

How to teach your child to read words with two syllables



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## Reading 2 Syllable Words

### Counting Syllables

A syllable is a beat of sound in a word. You can count how many syllables there are in a word by clapping each beat, or by putting your hand under your chin as you speak to count how many times it drops.

gift = 1 syllable    christmas = 2 syllables    holiday = 3 syllables

### Breaking Rules

Breaking words into their syllables helps us read them. Each syllable must have a vowel or vowel sound - find these first. Then, follow the guidelines:

- **Always break up double consonants.**
- **If there are two letters between the vowels, split them.**  
**But keep digraphs** (two letters that make one sound) **together.**
- **If there is one consonant between the vowels, try it on the right.**  
**If the word doesn't sound right, place the consonant on the left.**  
See below for how to read open and closed vowels

### Open/Closed Vowels

Vowels make different sounds depending on where we break the word. A vowel is **open** when it's the last letter in its syllable, and **closed** when a consonant follows it in the same syllable.

**Open vowels say their name:**

pa

per

mo

tion

**Closed vowels say their sound:**

cam

el

run

ner

- Break the word! **Learner underlines the vowels** or vowel sounds, **decides where to break the word** and **writes each syllable** below. **Learner ticks the correct boxes** depending on whether the vowel says its name or sound. Learner **reads each syllable** separately and then blends the word **together**.

pu <u>u</u> dd <u>i</u> ng	
pu <u>d</u>	di <u>ng</u>

**Vowel**

- ☐ Open  
☒ Closed

ri <u>b</u> bo <u>n</u>	

**Vowel**

- ☐ Open  
☐ Closed

wi <u>n</u> te <u>r</u>	

**Vowel**

- ☐ Open  
☐ Closed

si <u>l</u> en <u>t</u>	

**Vowel**

- ☐ Open  
☐ Closed

sh <u>i</u> ni <u>n</u> g	

**Vowel**

- ☐ Open  
☐ Closed

ti <u>n</u> se <u>l</u>	

**Vowel**

- ☐ Open  
☐ Closed

mu <u>s</u> ic	

**Vowel**

- ☐ Open  
☐ Closed

ro <u>b</u> in	

**Vowel**

- ☐ Open  
☐ Closed



- Build a reindeer! **Learner chooses one syllable from each column** to make a reindeer's name and **writes the name** on the dotted lines.

dash	et
vix	pid
com	er
cu	en

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don	cer
pran	en
dan	ner
blitz	cer

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- Story time! **Learner reads** the **story** twice, then the helper reads out the comprehension questions and **learner answers verbally**.

Sam was walking in the park when she saw a big pine tree dressed in bright lights and tinsel. A loud bell rang. Sam turned and spotted Rudolf! A little elf in red stepped out from behind him. "This is for you," the elf said, handing Sam a present tied with a neat red ribbon. Sam felt a rush of joy. What a sweet gift!

1. Where was Sam walking?
2. Who did Sam meet in the park?
3. How did Sam feel when the elf gave her the present?

- Game time! Helper and learner take it in turns to read a word and mark it with either a 0 or X, whoever gets three in a row wins. Play three times.

comet	dasher	prancer
dancer	rudolf	vixen
blitzen	donner	cupid

Colour in the star!

