**RULES FOR SYLLABICATION**

**Every syllable has one vowel sound.**

**The number of vowel sounds in a word equals the number of syllables.**

1. A one syllable word is never divided (safe, car, plane).

2. Divide a compound word between the words that make up the compound word (rail • road, air • port, play • ground, foot • ball, tooth • brush).

3. When a word has a suffix with a vowel sound in it, divide the word between the base word and the suffix (help • ing, leav • ing, kind • ness, thank • ful).

4. When a word has a prefix, divide the word between the prefix and the base word (re • fresh, dis • count, mis • fit, un • tie).

5. When two or more consonants come between two vowels in a word, the word is usually divided between the first two consonants (don • key, sis • ter, but • ter, hun • gry).

6. Consonant blends and digraphs are never separated (rest • ing, bush • el, reach • ing).

7. When a word has a ck or an x in it, the word is usually divided after the ck or x (nick • el, tax • i).

8. When a single consonant comes between two vowels in a word, it is usually divided after the consonant if the vowel is short (lev • er, cab • in, hab • it).

9. When a single consonant comes between two vowels in a word, it is usually divided before the consonant if the vowel is long (ba • sin, fe • ver, ma • jor).

10. When two vowels come together in a word, and are sounded separately, divide the word between the two vowels (ra • di • o, di • et, i • de • a).

11. When a vowel is sounded alone in a word, it forms a syllable itself (grad • u • ate, a • pron, u • nit).
12. When be, de, ex, and re are at the beginning of a word, they make a syllable of their own (be • came, de • fend, ex • hale, re • main).

13. When a word ends in le, preceded by a consonant, the word is divided before that consonant (pur • ple, fum • ble, mid • dle).

14. When a word ends in -ed, it forms a syllable ONLY when preceded by d or t (start • ed, found • ed).

15. When ture and tion are at the end or a word, they make their own syllable (lo • tion, pos • ture).

16. Divide between two middle consonants. Split up words that have two middle consonants (hap • pen, bas • ket, let • ter, sup • per, din • ner)