

The *Secret Rule*: Syllable Division of vccv Words to Make First Vowel Long

Each time our mouth opens to say a word or part of a word we are saying a syllable. A syllable is one opening of the mouth. We have already learned how to divide syllables in a vowel, consonant, consonant, vowel pattern to help us to read words that we do not know by dividing between the consonants by using the *Napkin Rule*. Today we will learn another way to divide words in a vowel, consonant, consonant, vowel pattern.

[Write secret on the board.] **How many syllables does this word have?** [2 because there are two vowels separated by consonants]

1. **Circle** prefixes I know at the beginning of the word.

in- dis- mis-
sub- re- pre-

Does this word have any prefixes? [no]

2. **Circle** suffixes I know at the end of the word.

-s -ing -ed
-less -ness -ly

Does this word have any suffixes? [no]

3. Look for syllable division patterns I know.

Find the vowels. Write y above the vowels.

Find the consonants between the vowels and write c above the consonants.

Divide the word into its syllables. When 2 consonants stand between 2 sounded vowels we most often divide between the consonants. After reading it, if the word does not make sense divide the word before the two consonants.

Accent the first syllable. In English, we accent the whole syllable. In an accented syllable, the mouth opens wider; the voice is louder, longer and stronger. We do not see the accent marks as we read English words, but every word has one syllable accented and it is usually the first syllable.

4. Code the syllables.

- Code the vowel sound.
- Mark out silent letters.
- Make any other codings necessary.

v	CCV
sē'	crĕt

5. Read the word.

Does it sound right?

Does it make sense?

If not, use a different syllable division pattern and re-read.

In a vowel, consonant, consonant, vowel pattern try the *Napkin Rule* first to make the first vowel short. If the word does not make sense, try the *Secret Rule* to make the first vowel long.

Words that Follow the *Secret Rule*

program

macron

matrix

migrate

reflex

programming

duplex

patrons

aprons

zebra

hatreds

sacred

flagrant

matrons

putrid

programs

microbe

sacred

duplexes

decline

declare

regressing

progress

apron

rubric

April

nitrate

respecting

supreme

programmed