

Phonics Rules

1. If a word or syllable has only one vowel and it comes at the beginning of a word, the vowel is usually short. These are called VC words.

For example: an, ant, end, in, up, on, ox

2. If a word or syllable has only one vowel and it comes between two consonants, the vowel is usually short. These are called CVC words.

For example: short a in fast, bat, cap, rack, hand
short i in sit, mitt, milk, lips, sink
short e in jet, men, web, tent, belt
short o in pop, box, lock, hot, rock
short u in run, lunch, bus, duck, tub

3. When a syllable ends in a silent "e", the silent "e" is a signal that the vowel in front of it is long. **This is often called the magic e or the bossy e.**

For example: make, kite, rope, use.

4. **Vowel Pairs:** If a syllable or one syllable word has two vowels, the first vowel usually stands for the long sound, and the second vowel is silent. **These are often called vowel teams. The saying is used: When two vowels go walking the first one does the talking.**