

Fundations Unit 9: Closed Syllables

Dear Families,

Unit 9 reviews the reading and spelling of previous word patterns, such as CVC words, digraphs, bonus letters, glued sounds, base words with the suffix -s, and consonant blends. There are no new word patterns taught in this unit.

Although there are no new spelling rules, the students will be introduced to the new concept of a **closed syllable**.

- Closed syllables only have one vowel.
- The vowel is followed by one or more consonants (closed in).
- The vowel sound is short.

It is important for your child to recognize a closed syllable because when the vowel is closed in at the end of a syllable or a one-syllable word, the vowel sound is short, as in the word “**cat**” or “**math**”. The recognition of this word structure helps your child decode words more easily and will be key as we continue with the program.

To mark a closed syllable, your child has learned to **scoop** the syllable, put a “**c**” under the scoop to indicate that the syllable is “closed,” and put a **breve** (˘) over the vowel.

Examples: căt, măth, ăsk, tĕn, bĕll, trĭp, shĭps, drĕp, clĕck, ŭp, drŭms

Non-Examples: safe, she, beat, lime, book, road, flute, whale, stripes

Even though most of the words we have practiced have been closed syllables, every once in a while be sure to ask your child, “Is this word a closed syllable?” and “Why?” Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

I will also teach these vowel teams using the Vowel Teams poster: **ai, ay, ee, ea, ey, oi, and oy**. Vowel teams are introduced for reference when students are reading throughout the day. These sounds will be learned in more depth for both reading and spelling in second grade. In the meantime, we will practice the sounds during our Fundations warm-up activity each day in class.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Pelkey





Vowel Teams



ai 

ay 

ee 

ea 

ey 

oi 

oy 

oa 

oe 

ow 

ou 

oo 

ue 

ew 

au 

aw 





Homework Guide

Review **closed syllables** with your child during the next 2 weeks.

Follow These 5 Steps:

1. Dictate the word and have your child echo the word.
2. Have your child tap out the sounds. Do not tap trick words (in bold).
3. Have your child tell you the letters that go with those sounds.
4. Have your child write the letters. It is helpful if you say the letters as your child writes them.
5. Ask your child to point out the closed syllables in each sentence. (See Answer Key).

WEEK 1

Dictate the words and sentence to your child following the 5 steps listed above.

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| On Monday Dictate | Review Words | → | pill | hush | chins |
| On Tuesday Dictate | Review Words | → | crash | fluffs | snug |
| On Wednesday Dictate | Trick Words | → | say | says | would |
| On Thursday Dictate | Sentence | → | Bob had the last mint. | | |

WEEK 2

Dictate the words and sentence to your child following the 5 steps listed above.

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| On Monday Dictate | Review Words | → | fuss | shrubs | drops |
| On Tuesday Dictate | Review Words | → | lamp | munch | flags |
| On Wednesday Dictate | Trick Words | → | see | each | between |
| On Thursday Dictate | Sentence | → | Pass the small block to Beth. | | |

Answer Key

WEEK 1 Sentence Closed Syllables - Bob, had, last, mint

WEEK 2 Sentence Closed Syllables - pass, small, block, Beth



Do the "Closed Syllable Search" Activity

Find and circle all the closed syllables. Cross out any syllable if it is not a closed syllable.

spin crank ask

no grab so

sing grass I

lump smell tail

pink eat snap

Answer Key

Cross out the words **no**, **so**, **I**, **tail** and **eat**. Circle all other words.



Do the "Closed Syllable Search and Mark" Activity

Have your child read the words. Cross out any word that is not a closed syllable. Mark up the closed syllable words. Then write the closed syllable words on the lines provided.

Example: ~~boat~~ bāg stēps

c c

clock

step

trash

winks

three

at

boat

chills

toe

dash

hi

sick

Answer Key

Closed syllables: **clock, step, trash, winks, at, chills, dash, sick.**

Fundations® Trick Words

WEEK 1

say

says

WEEK 2

see

between

each

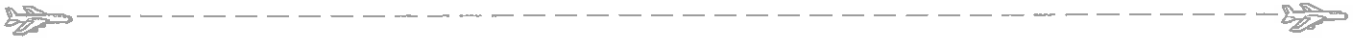
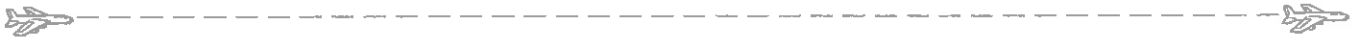
→ **Cut words into flashcards.** 1. Each night, help your child **read** all Trick Words from previous units, as well as these. 2. Have your child **trace** each new Trick Word with his or her finger and **spell** it aloud; and 3. Cover up the Trick Word and have your child write it with his or her finger on the table while naming each letter.

Name: _____

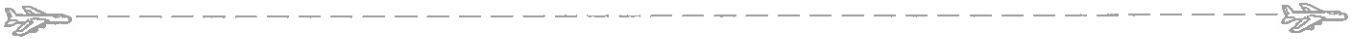
Date: _____

Writing Grid for Word and Sentence Homework

Review Words



Current Words



Trick Words



Sentence

