

Simple Rules for the Syllabic Division of Words

1. A compound word is separated into its members. EXAMPLE. — *foot'stool*.

2. Two or more vowels sounded together are not to be separated. EXAMPLE. — *boil'er*.

3. Two vowels sounded separately belong to separate syllables. EXAMPLE. — *a ë'ri al*.

4. Combinations like *tion, sion, cion*, etc., are not to be divided.

5. Avoid ending a syllable with soft *c* or soft *g*.

NOTE.—This rule is especially useful in the division of plural nouns and verbs. It has several exceptions, among them *mag'ic, reg'i ment, ca pac'i ty, prec'i pice, rec i ta'tion, log'ic, judg'ment, ex ag'ger ate, dig'it, ac knowl'edg ing, rus tic'i ty*.

6. Avoid beginning a syllable with *x, r* (when *â, ã, î, ô, or û*, precedes it), or a single *l, n, or v*, followed by *i* with the sound of consonant *y*. The correct division is shown in *ex am'ine, par'ent, and fol'io*.

7. When a consonant is doubled the syllabic division usually comes between these two letters. EXAMPLES. — *rob'ber, dip'per*.

NOTE.—This must not be allowed to break up the original root of the word. *Call'er, dress'es, add'ing* are correctly divided.

8. Many words ending in *le* and *re* take over the preceding consonant into the final syllable. EXAMPLES. — *trou'ble, a'cre*.

9. Prefixes and affixes are usually set off by themselves. EXAMPLES. — *de scribe', paint'er*.

10. No syllable is separable which does not contain a vowel, and no syllable includes two distinct vowel sounds.

NOTE.—Other rules for syllabication are so complicated that they are of little help to the pupil. Many divisions are arbitrary, and authorities frequently disagree. The pronunciation is the safest general guide.