Applying Syllable Rules One and Two with Consonant Teams and Consonant Blends

Consonant teams are counted as one letter when counting the number of consonants between vowels to determine where to divide a word into syllables. teacher, mushroom

In some words the letters of the consonant blend must remain together in the same syllable in order for the word’s pronunciation to be recognizable. As an example in the word respond the consonant blend sp must remain together in the second syllable in order to pronounce the word as /re-spond/; otherwise, the word would be divided between the s and the p and be pronounced /res-pond/. There are other words where the same letters do not join to form a consonant blend and instead divide into separate syllables without distorting the pronunciation of the word such as in the word aspect which is pronounced /as/ /pect/.

Letter teams are always underlined; however, consonant blends are not marked unless a consonant blend occurs at a point in a word where the letters forming the consonant blend would be separated into separate syllables if the applicable syllable division rule is applied without first identifying the letters as a blend. In this instance and only in this instance indicate that the consonant blend letters must remain together by placing half circles under those letters. Half circles placed under the consonant blend letters protect the consonant blend letters from separation and indicate that the letters must remain together in the same syllable in order to preserve the correct pronunciation of the word. Count these protected consonant blend letters as one letter when counting the number of consonants between vowels to determine where to divide words into syllables: across, respect.

While the letters which form a consonant team almost never separate, consonant letters which form blends in some words will in other words separate and divide into different syllables: reflect, teflon, chestnut, Chester.

Lesson 380

1. teaspoon deflate urchin matrix
2. program retreat spendthrift hangman
3. bestow gopher protrude detract
4. orphan secret bumpkin respond
5. outshine deplete betray software
6. rancher regret reprint neglect
7. sportsman nitric playground egret
8. restraint nitrate deflect destroy