



# HIDDEN SYLLABLES

“HIDDEN SYLLABLES” is a concept coined by Love and Reilly to explain words that have less syllables when pronounced than when written.

*An example is "primary". Most people say it as "prime-ree" with two syllables, but when we write it, we spell out three syllables.*

*Note: This is NOT referring to the words that some young children pronounce incorrectly such as "puter" (for "computer") and "elphant" (for "elephant").*

When we tackle the spelling of words that contain a HIDDEN SYLLABLE, it is useful to explore how the word SOUNDS versus how it looks when WRITTEN.

As an adult, you may be already using this strategy subconsciously when spelling.

**If you have students who have mastered the spelling of regular multisyllabic words, they are ready to tackle HIDDEN SYLLABLES!**

**FOR THE WORDS BELOW, PRACTISE SAYING:**

**"First, let's say it how we SAY it... then let's say it how we SPELL it."**

For example, “MINERAL: First let’s say it how we say it: min-ral. Then let’s say it how we spell it: min-er-al.” Follow this by writing the word, syllable by syllable, being sure to say the HIDDEN SYLLABLE.

The following is a list of words that can be used to practise the HIDDEN SYLLABLE strategy.

<b>library</b>	<b>battery</b>	<b>brilliant</b>
<b>different</b>	<b>general</b>	<b>separate</b>
<b>cemetery</b>	<b>soldier</b>	<b>favourite</b>
<b>literacy</b>	<b>camera</b>	<b>mineral</b>
<b>chocolate</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>primary</b>
<b>every</b>	<b>everyone</b>	<b>language</b>
<b>several</b>	<b>restaurant</b>	<b>usually</b>
<b>comfortable</b>	<b>vegetable</b>	<b>accidentally</b>
<b>broccoli</b>	<b>parliament</b>	<b>conference</b>