

## How to separate words in syllables

1. One syllable words are never separated.  
ex.) cat /kæt/, this /ðɪs/, knife /naɪf/, through /θruː/
2. Compound words should be separated in each individual.  
ex.) overcoat /'oʊvəkəʊt/ → over-coat
3. If two vowels come together, separate them, unless they are not diphthong.  
diphthong(ex., coat<oa>, oil<oi>)  
ex.) oasis /'oʊeɪsɪs/ → o-a-sis
4. Long vowels are separated from the next consonant.  
ex.) water /'wɑːtər/ → wa-ter, paper /'peɪpər/ → pa-per
5. Short vowels usually take next consonant.  
ex.) camel /'kæməl/ → cam-el, general /'dʒenrəl/ → gen-er-al
6. Separate no-stressed-long-vowel from the next consonant.  
(no-stressed-long-vowel: (ex., as in potato, <po> and <to> are pronounced more quickly and vaguely than <ta>, the stressed-long-vowel.)  
ex.) potato /pə'teɪtəʊ/ → po-ta-to, police /pə'liːs/ → po-lice
7. Some vowels + 'r' are never separated.  
ex.) parent /'perənt/ → par-ent, order /'ɔːrdər/ → or-der
8. Two consonants jammed with vowels are usually separated each other.  
ex.) sudden /'sʌdn/ → sud-den
9. If one consonant is jammed with two vowels, it goes with the initial vowel if the vowel is short; if long, goes with the latter vowel.  
ex.) ① natural /'nætʃrəl/ → nat-u-ral ② nature /'neɪtʃər/ → na-ture
10. If three or more consonants are jammed with vowels, usually the first consonant goes with the initial vowel.  
ex.) castle /'kæsl/ → cas-tle, instrument /'ɪnstɹəmənt/ → in-stru-ment
11. The letter 'l', used as substitute vowel, is joined with the initial consonant, even if there is a short vowel before.  
ex.) apple /'æpl/ → ap-ple, able /'eɪbəl/ → a-ble
12. Semivowels, such as 'w' or 'j' should belong to the syllable based on the sounds, for example, <u> sounds like [w]; <i> sounds like [j].  
ex.) liquid /'lɪkwɪd/ → li-liquid, Italian /'ɪtæli(j)ən/ → I-tal-ian