

Syllabication is the separating of a word into its syllables. It is a great aid in the pronunciation of a long or unfamiliar word to separate it into its syllables. It is an aid also in spelling.

Rules for Syllabication.

There are two general rules which have been followed in dividing words into syllables.

First, the word is divided so as to give ease and smoothness of utterance; and, second, the origin or derivation of the word is respected in separating it into its syllables.

Under the first general rule a few specific rules may be given.

(a) **C** and **g** can not end a syllable; as, *ra-ging*, not *rag-ing*; *enti-cing*, not *entic-ing*.

(b) **X** and **r**, preceded by *d* or *e*, can not begin a syllable; as, *vex-ation*, *par-ent*, *aver-age*.

(c) When a single consonant comes between two vowels, it is usually joined to the following vowel; as, *fa-vor*, *wa-ter*.

NOTE. — There are many exceptions to the above rules, a full list of which may be obtained in the "Guide to Pronunciation," in Webster's International Dictionary.

Accent. — Accent is stress laid on one or more syllables in a word to distinguish them from the others.

Accent is of two kinds: Primary, where the full force of the voice is given; and Secondary, where less stress is given than is indicated by the primary accent, but more than is given to the other syllables of the word; as, *su'per in tend'-ent*. The syllable "tend" has the primary accent, and the syllable "su" has the secondary accent.