

# Grade 3 Spelling Unit 1



## Major Concepts

This unit focuses on **closed syllables**, **closed syllable exceptions**, and **glued sounds** (see below for definitions and examples). All of these concepts are a review from 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, but often students need more practice for mastery. English is a tricky language!

Students learn that there are *6-syllable types* – this unit just focuses on one, the **closed syllable**. Students learn how to identify a closed syllable by looking at the vowel and seeing if it is followed by one or more consonants. If that’s the case, the vowel will make a short sound like in “cat” or “splash”. We mark these by putting a “c” under the word or syllable showing it’s closed. We then mark the vowel with a “u-shape” showing it is short – it does not say its name (see picture below)!

**Closed Syllable Exceptions** don’t follow the same rules – that’s why they are the exception. In this case, the vowel is long like in the word “cold” or “grind”.

**Glued sounds** are a big review from second grade. When certain letters (see below) are found together, they are always glued and make the same sounds like in the words, “think” or “tank”. We mark these by boxing them together – showing they are glued!

**Trick/Sound** alike words are words that cannot be sounded out and must be memorized! There are no patterns in this case! Sometimes, they are a homonym that sounds like another word!

## Current Vocabulary

**Closed Syllable:** a syllable with only one vowel that is followed by a consonant “tucked in”. The vowel is always short

**Closed Syllable Exception:** These patterns follow the above pattern, but the vowel is long.  
(ild, ind, olt, ost, old)

**Glued Sound:** letters that are glued together always make the same sounds  
(all, am, an, ank, ang, ink, ing, onk, ong, unk, ung)



## At Home Activities

- ✓ Look for words that follow these patterns in real life.
- ✓ Build trick/sound alike words in multi-sensory ways.
- ✓ Practice decoding or sounding out words. Have your child tap out words before telling them what it may be.