Six Basic Syllable Spelling Patterns
(Moats, 1995)

1. closed: These syllables end in a consonant. The vowel sound is generally short (examples: rabbit, napkin).

2. open: These syllables end in a vowel. The vowel sound is generally long (examples: tiger, pilot).

3. vowel–silent e (VCe): These syllables generally represent long-vowel sounds (examples: compete, decide).

4. vowel team: Many vowel sounds are spelled with vowel digraphs such as ai, ay, ea, ee, oa, ow, oo, oi, oy, ou, ie, and ei. The vowel digraphs appear in the same syllable (examples: boat, explain).

5. r-controlled: When a vowel is followed by r, the letter r affects the sound of the vowel. The vowel and the r appear in the same syllable (examples: bird, turtle).

6. consonant + le: Usually when le appears at the end of a word and is preceded by a consonant, the consonant + le form the final syllable (examples: table, little).