_____
Name

VC# and VCC in Key Syllables

To complete the presentation of basic vowel quality patterns for vowels in key syllables, this lesson introduces four new patterns and reviews those you have already learned. Two of the new patterns predict unglided vowels; two predict reduced vowels.

A. Parts of a Vowel Quality Pattern

As you know, the three parts of a vowel quality pattern are a vowel spelling pattern, a stress mark, and a vowel quality clue. Let us review these three parts using the two principal patterns for unglided vowels found in the second syllable of these words.

tarmac   **attack**

1. **Vowel Spelling Pattern.** A vowel spelling pattern always has a target vowel letter. It may have relevant neighboring letters, but not the *i* or *u* of iV or uV spellings (see VS-3, p. 3). It may also have a position marker. A position marker is relevant in the first pattern, #; it means "at the end of a word." Be sure to ignore neutral endings.

tarmac	**attack**
↓↓↓	↓↓↓
VC#	VCC

VC#   has **only one** target vowel letter and **only one** following consonant letter. These two letters must be at the end of a word (#). This is the VC# (**vee-cee-end**) spelling pattern.

VCC   has **only one** target vowel letter but **at least two** following consonant letters. This is the VCC (**vee-cee-cee**) spelling pattern. The two consonant letters may be different (like *ck, st, mb, ld, nk, nt*) or the same (like *ll, nn, mm, tt, pp*). In one case only, **the single consonant letter, x, is taken as two consonant letters (CC)** because it hides two consonant sounds, /ks/ or /gz/. Thus, the key of *tax* illustrates VCC.

a.   Underline the key syllable in each word below.
b.   Identify the spelling pattern of the key syllable.

E.g. he<u>lp</u>ed   <u> VCC </u>   1.   ransom   _____   3.   dismiss _____

E.g. depo<u>sit</u>s   <u> VC# </u>   2.   fox   _____   4.   employ _____

5. quietly   _____   10. indexes   _____   15. length   _____

6. biased _____	11. patches _____	16. replete _____
7. tissues _____	12. zodiac _____	17. badly _____
8. slowly _____	13. swami _____	18. flexing _____
9. comma _____	14. questing _____	19. denying _____

2. **Stress.** A stressed vowel will carry either a major stress (´) or a minor (`) stress. An unstressed vowel will carry (ˇ). Note: If a word has a minor stress on the target vowel, the pattern should have minor stress over its vowel, too.

3. **Vowel Quality Clue.** The "name" and "shape" of a vowel letter are clues to the glided and unglided pronunciations of that vowel. A "reduced" vowel quality predicts /ə/ for all vowel letters; /ɪ/ is also acceptable for vowels spelled *e, i,* or *y*.

   Recall the "shape" clues for unglided vowels:

a, A	/æ/	fad	o, O	/ɔ, ɑ/	boss, cot
e, E	/ɛ/	fed	u, U	"flipped over" i.e. /ʌ/	custom
i, I	/ɪ/	fit	y, Y	/ɪ/ same as for i, I	fit

B. Vowel Quality Patterns for Unglided and Reduced Vowels

Two steps to predict the sound of a key vowel were introduced in VS-4: (1) Match the key syllable to a vowel quality pattern by noting the spelling and stress of the key, and (2) use the name-shape translator to generate the symbol for the target vowel: the vowel letter in the key plus the vowel quality clue in the pattern. Note these stressed patterns.

1. V́C# = shape
   (V̀C# = shape)

   ácrŏbàt, compéls, commít, gym, godly, buds. The key syllable (underlined) matches either V́C# = shape or V̀C# = shape. The vowel sound of the key is the symbol associated with the "shape" of the vowel letter /æ, ɛ, ɪ, ɪ, ɔ/ɑ, ʌ/, respectively.

   Step 1: Match Key to Pattern

   ácrŏbàt
   ↓↓↓
   V̀C# = shape

   Step 2: Use Name-Shape Translator

   a + "shape" translates into /æ/

2. V́CC = shape
   (V̀CC = shape)

   sand, prótèst, fíxed, nymph, strongly, stuffing. The two-step process applies to these words to predict the sound of the target vowel letter as /æ, ɛ, ɪ, ɪ, ɔ/ɑ, ʌ/, respectively.

A reduced vowel generally requires an unstressed vowel and a following consonant letter. Two more patterns for reduced vowels are the following.

3. V̆C# = reduced   *bántăm, sýstĕms, vívĭdly, éthy̆l, pístŏls, cónsŭl.* The unstressed key vowel + C, allows us to predict the reduced vowel /ə/ in all cases, or /ɪ/ where the key is spelled with *e, i,* or *y*.

4. V̆CC = reduced   *émĕrălds, témpĕst, tărĭff, ánăly̆st's, sécŏndly, bísmŭth.* As above, the reduced vowel in each key syllable is /ə/ (or /ɪ/ if the vowel is spelled *e, i,* or *y*).

a. *Underline the key syllable in each word below.*
b. *Write out the vowel quality pattern of the key.*
c. *Transcribe the key vowel using the name-shape translator.*
d. *Say each word aloud and check your pronunciation.*

E.g. w<u>e</u>lsh   <u>V́CC = shape</u> / ɛ /   12. dĭămŏnd _____ / /

E.g. báll<u>ŏt</u>s   <u>V̆C# = reduced</u> / ə /   13. rúĭns _____ / /

1. cértaĭnly _____ / /   14. cónsòle _____ / /

2. scávĕnging _____ / /   15. féllŏws _____ / /

3. dený _____ / /   16. lílĭes _____ / /

4. cómmŏnly _____ / /   17. to vex _____ / /

5. mixed _____ / /   18. Chárlĕy's _____ / /

6. quell _____ / /   19. pízză _____ / /

7. forgót _____ / /   20. gifts _____ / /

8. vísĭting _____ / /   21. réscŭing _____ / /

9. místletòe _____ / /   22. inánely _____ / /

10. brándy̆ _____ / /   23. a dúŏ _____ / /

11. leagues _____ / /   24. víny̆l _____ / /

Check your answers: **p. 1-2.** 1. <u>om</u>, VC#; 2. <u>ox</u>, VCC; 3. <u>iss</u>, VCC; 4. <u>oy</u>, VV; 5. <u>et</u>, VC#; 6. <u>as</u>, VC+E; 7. <u>u</u>, V; 8. <u>ow</u>, VV; 9. <u>a</u>, V; 10. <u>ex</u>, VCC; 11. <u>atch</u>, VCC; 12. <u>ac</u>, VC#; 13. <u>i</u>, V; 14. <u>est</u>, VCC; 15. <u>ength</u>, VCC; 16. <u>et</u>, VC+E; 17. <u>ad</u>, VC#; 18. <u>ex</u>, VCC; 19. <u>y</u>, V. **p. 3.** 1. <u>ain</u>, V́V̆C = reduced, /ə/; 2. <u>eng</u>, V̆CC = reduced, / ə/ɪ /; 3. <u>y</u>, V́ = name, /ay/; 4. <u>on</u>, V̆C# = reduced, /ə/; 5. <u>ix</u>, V̆CC = shape, /ɪ/; 6. <u>ell</u>, V̆CC = shape, /ɛ/; 7. <u>ot</u>, V̀C# = shape, /ɑ~ɔ/; 8. <u>it</u>, V̆C+E = reduced, / ə/ɪ /; 9. <u>o</u>, V̀= name, /ow/; 10. <u>y</u>, y̆ = /iy/; 11. <u>eagu</u>, VV = name, /iy/; 12. <u>ond</u>, V̆CC = reduced, / ə /; 13. <u>in</u>, V̆C# = reduced, / ə/ɪ /; 14. <u>ol</u>, VC+E = name, /ow/; 15. <u>ow</u>, V̆V̆ = name, /ow/; 16. <u>i</u>, ĭ = /iy/; 17. <u>ex</u>, V̀CC = shape, /ɛ/; 18. <u>ey</u>, V̆V̆ = name, /iy/; 19. <u>a</u>, ă = reduced, /ə/; 20. <u>ift</u>, V̆CC = shape, /ɪ/; 21. <u>u</u>, V́ = name, /uw/; 22. <u>an</u>, V̀C+E = name, /ey/; 23. <u>o</u>, V́ = name, /ow/; 24. <u>yl</u>, V̆C# = reduced, / ə/ɪ /.