

Directions for teaching **vowel pairs (vowel teams)**:

1. Write the following words on the board—rain, boat, sea. Ask students: *How many vowels do you see in each word?*
2. Then ask: *What does each word end with?* (Some with a consonant, some with 2 vowels). Then ask: *Can these be closed syllables?* (No, closed syllable has only 1 vowel sound and ends with a consonant). *Can these be open syllables?* (No, because it must end in only 1 long vowel).

3. Have students read the words on the board, paying particular attention to the vowel sound.
Ask: What is the same about the vowel sound in each word? (It's long). What's the same about the way the vowel sound is written? (It is always written as a vowel pair or team.) Remind the students that "w" and "y" are sometimes vowels.
4. *Say: What would be a good name for this syllable (Vowel team or pair).*

5. Define vowel team syllables for students. It contains two vowels next to each other; the first vowel sound is long; the second is silent). Explain to the students when they're looking at a long word, they should put the vowel team in the same syllable.
6. Write the following sentences on the board for students to complete: A vowel-team syllable contains ____vowels together. The sound of the first one is ____; the second one is ____.

7. Extend the lesson by writing two-syllable words with a vowel team syllable (e.g. yellow, explain, repeat). Help students blend each syllable to read the words.

canteen

contain

explain

fourteen

halfway

midair

proceed

subway

can teen con

tain ex plain

four half sub

way mid air

pro ceed