Open and Closed Syllable Patterns

An open pattern is a syllable that ends with a vowel. The vowel in an open syllable is usually long.

\[ VCV \]

crater
dinner
legal

A closed pattern is a syllable that ends with a consonant. The vowel in a closed syllable is often short.

\[ VCCV \]

number
magnet
dentist

Not all syllables that divide between two consonants have closed syllables with short sounds.

turtle
mermaid
wonder