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.

\[ V \; CV \]

\[ cra/ter \]
\[ di/ner \]
\[ le/gal \]

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

\[ VC \; CV \]

\[ num/ber \]
\[ mag/net \]
\[ den/tist \]

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

\[ tur/tle \]
\[ mer/maid \]
\[ won/der \]