Dividing and Accenting Words

Trying hard to divide a new word
Keep in mind what you've already heard
With consonants, be mean!
Divide before or between
And most of your fears will be cured.

Dividing words into syllables is simple and logical. Use the poem to help you remember the most important rules—you always divide <u>before</u> a single consonant or <u>between</u> two consonants. You also divide between two vowels. The few exceptions are reviewed below.

TWO SYLLABLES

The accent on words with two syllables ALWAYS falls on the first syllable, which is also the next to last (penultimate) syllable.

Divide the following words into two syllables, between the vowel and the consonant, between two vowels, or a vowel and a dipthong (ae, au). Place an accent above the first syllable. The first one is done for you.

nō´|men	licet	ego	scrībe
tacē	plaude	īre	quaesō

Divide the following words into two syllables, between two consonants, unless you have -br-, -tr-, -cl-, -cr-, -ph-, -qu-, etc., (they naturally stay together). Then you divide between the vowel and the pair. Place an accent above the first syllable.

fus´|te	tardus	librum	mēnsa
tempus	spectā	adsum	salvē

THREE SYLLABLES

Accent on the next to last (penultimate) syllable.

Divide the following words into three syllables based on the rules you used above. Put the accent on the next to last syllable if the vowel in that syllable is long or if it is followed by two consonants.

fa|cis´|ne	libellōs	habēsne	latrīnam
nōlīte	terisne	spectāsne	tacēte

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1) Is the accent ever on the last syllable? NEVER.
2) Is the next to last syllable have a long vowel?
- *yes – ACCENT IT!*
- *no – go to question #3*

3) Is the next to the last syllable followed by two consonants?
- *yes – ACCENT IT!*
- *no – move to the syllable **before** the next to last syllable and ACCENT IT!*

Accent on the syllable before the next to last (antepenultimate) syllable.

Divide the following words into three syllables based on the rules you used above. Put the accent on the *syllable before the next to last syllable* if the vowel in next to last syllable is *short* and *not* followed by two consonants.

fa´|ci|te   habeō   terere   spongiam
comparā   faciō   scrībite   paginam

MORE THAN THREE SYLLABLES

The accent will either be on the next to last (penultimate) syllable or the syllable before the next to last (antepenultimate) syllable. Never on the last, and never anywhere else in the word.

Divide the following words into syllables and put the accent on the appropriate syllable.

hō|ro|lo´|gi|um   intellegisne   praeparātiōnem   labōrāte
significat   tintinnābulum   comparāte   dēpōnite
spīrāliāria   tintinnabulārius   cōnsīdite   aperīte

_____
1) Is the accent ever on the last syllable? NEVER.
2) Is the next to last syllable have a long vowel?
- *yes – ACCENT IT!*
- *no – go to question #3*
3) Is the next to the last syllable followed by two consonants?
- *yes – ACCENT IT!*
- *no – move to the syllable **before** the next to last syllable and ACCENT IT!*