

Name: _____

Syllables



Syllables are chunks of sound.

If you say these words out loud, you will hear the chunks or beats of sound:

slam, mock, waltz

These words have 1 syllable.

happy, desert, hybrid

These words have 2 syllables.

vanilla, artistic, internet

These words have 3 syllables.

Syllables include a vowel: a, e, i, o, u, or sometimes y.

Mark the vowels in this long word with a √ : sēsquipedālian

Count the vowels in this long word: _____

Now try reading the word in chunks: ses | qui | pe | da | li | an

Clap for each syllable you hear.  ses qui pe da li an

How to find syllables

1. If you know the word, try clapping the number of beats you hear in the word.
2. If you don't know the word, label each vowel in the word (a, e, i, o, u and sometimes y). Then count the number of vowels in the word.

How many syllables do these words have?

Santo Domingo _____ syllables

Edinson Cavani _____ syllables

Syllables, continued

Megatron
_____ syllables

Shakira
_____ syllables

Rihanna
_____ syllables

Selena Gomez
_____ syllables

Afghanistan
_____ syllables

Tennessee
_____ syllables

Trinidad
_____ syllables

How to find syllables, part 2

Remember our vowel teams? If a syllable has a vowel team, or a silent e, we will get the wrong number of syllables if we just count the number of vowels.

To make the vowel counting rule work:

1. Label the vowels with \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark .
2. Put a slash through any silent vowels (like the silent 'e' at the end of a word).
3. Put a slash through the second vowel in a vowel team.
4. Count the vowels that are left. That will give you the right number of syllables for the word.

Syllables, continued

Here's an example.

1. Label all the vowels in the word with √ √ √.

Greece

2. Put a slash through the √ for the silent e. Silent e's come at the end of words.

Greece

3. Now put a slash through the second √ in the vowel team "ee". Only one vowel counts in a vowel team.

Greece

Only one vowel is left, so "Greece" has one syllable!

How many syllables do these words and names have?

Greece
_____ syllables

volunteer
_____ syllables

Drake
_____ syllables

waitress
_____ syllables

Quick quiz

1. Choose the group of letters that is a syllable:

ar ss ng st

2. Choose the group of letters that is not a syllable:

tion ly gv ing

3. Choose the group of letters that is not a syllable:

un der neath th