

What is a Syllable?

An uninterrupted unit of sound that can be made with one impulse of the voice.

Note: students may confuse phonemes (unit of sound) with syllables.

Counting Syllables:

Jaw Dropping:

Vowels require some degree of opening in the vocal tract and each syllable requires a vowel in it. Therefore, students can place their hands underneath their chins whilst carefully saying the target word and counting how many “jaw drops” occur.

Nose Impulses:

Have students close their lips and say the target word. All the air escapes through the nose in distinct impulses.

Humminzinger:

Have students hum the target word and count the number of hums.

Open Syllable:

When the syllable has one vowel is at the end of a syllable, the vowel says its name (long).

e.g., he, begin, open, so

Closed Syllable:

When the syllable has one vowel and is followed by one or more consonants.

e.g., pet, crash, milk, got

