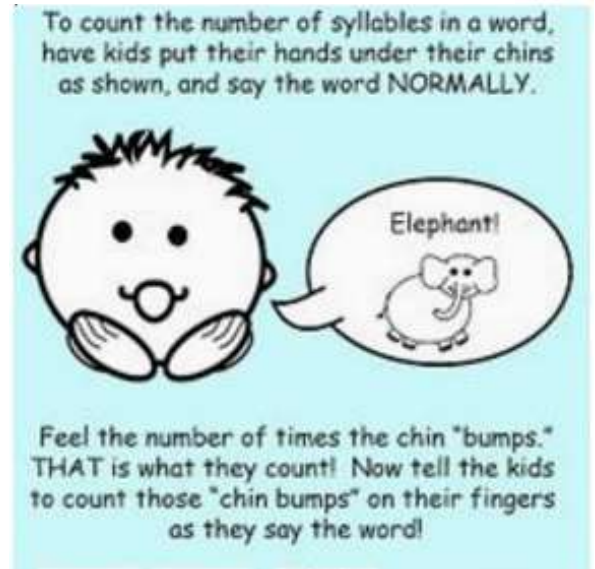


Syllables

Syllable Counting

Being able to break words into syllables is a very useful skill to support reading and spelling. A good way to develop this skill is to ask your child to count the number of syllables in a word. You can do this by clapping or tapping the rhythm of the word. Another good way is to put your hand under your chin when you are saying the word. Because each syllable has a vowel sound in it, your mouth opens wider for each syllable.



Using Names

All words have syllables. A word might have one, two, or even more syllables. Clap as you say each syllable aloud. The word 'reading' has 2 syllables: read (clap) - ing (clap). 'Red' has 1 syllable: red (clap). 'Purple' has 2 syllables: pur (clap) - ple (clap). Now you try. Clap your hands for each syllable in the word 'happy'.

Syllable Treasure Hunt

When you are outside on your walk or looking around the house, encourage your child to look for words all with the same number of syllables. For example:

1 syllable words



2 syllable words



3 syllable words



4 syllable words

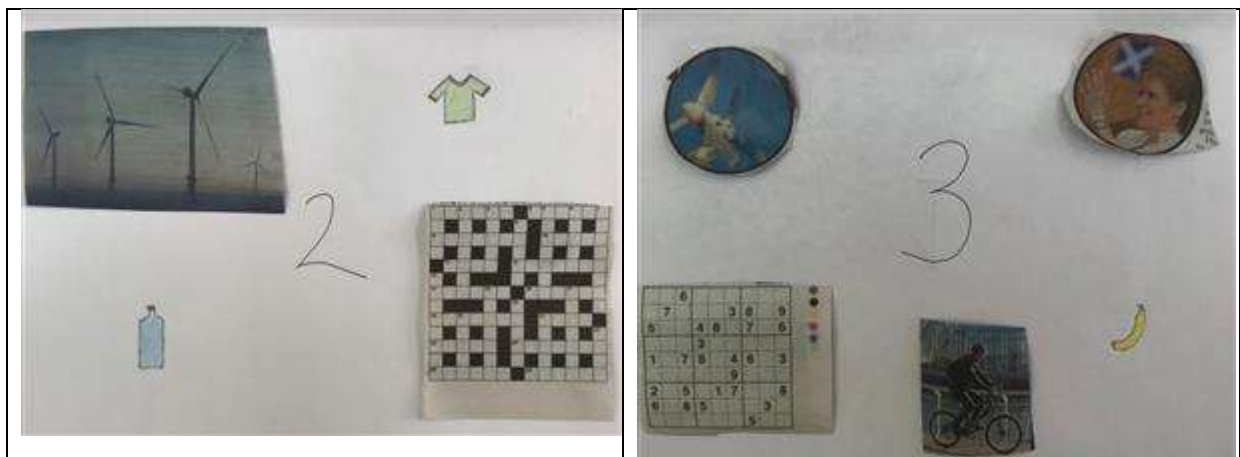


5 syllable words



Cutting and sorting or drawing

Ask your child to cut out pictures of objects and sort them into categories. You could also ask your child to draw pictures instead of cutting them out.



Syllable Games

Take turns to think of words and count the number of syllables in each word. Award 1 point for each syllable. The person with the most points wins.

Syllable bingo - Have a go at making your own bingo boards? You could use any word list to play with e.g. Fruit & Veg words; pear (1), pumpkin (2), tomato (3) etc.

Technical Words

Children are introduced to multisyllabic words very early, particularly in maths. Think of words like cuboid, rhombus, addition, subtraction, triangle and parallelogram. These words are easier to say, read and write once they have been broken down. Learners who can break words down can cope more easily with longer words as they get older.

Older Learners

Learners of all ages benefit from being able to break long words down into syllables. Older learners will still benefit from these activities and can enjoy taking part.

Other Activities

Count the number of syllables in your snacks today, superhero names, pizza toppings, movies and TV shows, etc.

If you have a garden or can go to a park, why not try these activities:

Syllable run Label four sides (or more!) 1, 2, 3, and 4, or place 4 numbered 'spots' on the ground. 'I am going to say a word, you need to work out how many syllables it has and then run to that wall/spot...' Words could be taken from any context you have recently been discussing:

- just before lunch you might use chicken, fish, pasta, salad, broccoli etc.
- with a weather topic you might use rain, thunder, wind, temperature etc.

Syllable Hop: learners hop out the number of syllables in a word given to them, either in a line or on a hopscotch grid.

Syllable Kick/Bounce: using football/tennis ball/soft ball. Say a word slowly, the learner repeats it as they kick/bounce out each syllable.

Stand up/ sit down: "Stand up if you have 1 syllable in your name. Sit down if you have 2 syllables in your name."

Name sort: "Let's have everyone with 4 syllables stand by the TV. If you have 2 syllables in your name, stand by the settee..."

Who is it: "I'm thinking of . . ." game using the kids' names. "I'm thinking of a person who has 2 syllables in her name. Her name starts with B."

What's/ who's in the bag: fill a bag with objects/ picture cards. Pick a card from the bag... "it's got 3 syllables and begins with /t/" others can ask questions on the basis of the yes/ no game... can we eat it, is it green, etc... When guesses are given get them to check the syllables as the first step to checking if it could be correct.

Calendar: at start of month model counting out the syllables in the name of the month, repeat at odd points through the month. Similarly use days of the week.