

ROLE OF SYLLABLE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Abstract. This article is all about syllables and will give a definition for syllable definition, cover the types of syllables in English, and provide some syllable examples. We'll also cover syllable division – in other words, how to divide a word into its constituent syllables.

Key words. syllable, the formation of syllable, the sequence of letters, the link, the open link, the closed link.

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqola bo'g'inlar haqida bo'lib, bo'g'in ta'rifiga ta'rif beradi, ingliz tilidagi bo'g'in turlarini qamrab oladi va bo'g'inlarga misollar keltiradi. Shuningdek, biz bo'g'in bo'linishini - boshqa so'z bilan aytganda, so'zni uning tarkibiy bo'g'inlariga qanday ajratishni ko'rib chiqamiz.

Kalit so'zlar. Bo'g'in, bo'g'inning yasalishi, harflar ketma-ketligi, bo'g'in, ochiq bo'g'in, yopiq bo'g'in.

Аннотация. В этой статье рассказывается о слогах, дается определение слога, рассматриваются типы слогов в английском языке и приводятся примеры слогов. Мы также рассмотрим слоговое деление – иначе говоря, как разбить слово на составляющие его слоги.

Ключевые слова. Слог, образование слог, последовательность букв, слог, открытый слог, закрытый слог.

A syllable is a unit of organization for a sequence of speech sounds, typically made up of a syllable nucleus (most often a vowel) with optional initial and final margins (typically, consonants). Syllables are often considered the phonological "building blocks" of words.^[1] They can influence the rhythm of a language, its prosody, its poetic metre and its stress patterns. Speech can usually be divided up into a whole number of syllables: for example, the word ignite is made of two syllables: ig and nite.

Syllabic writing began several hundred years before the first letters. The earliest recorded syllables are on tablets written around 2800 BC in the Sumerian city of Ur.

This shift from pictograms to syllables has been called "the most important advance in the history of writing".^[1.126]

A word that consists of a single syllable (like English dog) is called a monosyllable (and is said to be monosyllabic). Similar terms include disyllable (and disyllabic; also bisyllable and bisyllabic) for a word of two syllables; trisyllable (and trisyllabic) for a word of three syllables; and polysyllable (and polysyllabic), which may refer either to a word of more than three syllables or to any word of more than one syllable.

There can be disagreement about the location of some divisions between syllables in spoken language. The problems of dealing with such cases have been most commonly discussed with relation to English. In the case of a word such as hurry, the division may be /hʌr.i/ or /hʌ.ri/, neither of which seems a satisfactory analysis for a non-rhotic accent such as RP (British English): /hʌr.i/ results in a syllable-final /r/, which is not normally found, while /hʌ.ri/ gives a syllable-final short stressed vowel, which is also non-occurring. Arguments can be made in favour of one solution or the other: A general rule has been proposed that states that "Subject to certain conditions ..., consonants are syllabified with the more strongly stressed of two flanking syllables",^[2.52] while many other phonologists prefer to divide syllables with the consonant or consonants attached to the following syllable wherever possible. However, an alternative that has received some support is to treat an intervocalic consonant as ambisyllabic, i.e. belonging both to the preceding and to the following syllable: /hʌrɪ/. This is discussed in more detail in English phonology § Phonotactics.

The onset (also known as anlaut) is the consonant sound or sounds at the beginning of a syllable, occurring before the nucleus.^[3.129] Most syllables have an onset. Syllables without an onset may be said to have an empty or zero onset – that is, nothing where the onset would be.

Some languages restrict onsets to be only a single consonant, while others allow multiconsonant onsets according to various rules. For example, in English, onsets such as pr-, pl- and tr- are possible but tl- is not, and sk- is possible but ks- is not. In Greek, however, both ks- and tl- are possible onsets, while contrarily in Classical Arabic no multiconsonant onsets are allowed at all.

What is a syllable in English? A syllable is a unit of spoken language that forms an entire word or parts of words. Syllables are usually made up of a single vowel sound and any surrounding consonant sounds. For instance, the word 'butter' contains two syllables: 'but' and 'ter'. First of all, let's lay down a handy definition.

¹ Walker, Christopher B. F. (1990). "Cuneiform". [Reading the Past: Ancient Writing from Cuneiform to the Alphabet](#)

² Harper, Douglas. "syllable". [Online Etymology Dictionary](#). Retrieved

³ Walker, Christopher B. F. (1990). "Cuneiform". [Reading the Past: Ancient Writing from Cuneiform to the Alphabet](#)

Once we understand ‘what is a syllable in English?’, we’ll be able to go into more detail later on!

A syllable is a single, unbroken vowel sound within a spoken word. They typically contain a vowel, or two if one is silent, and perhaps one or more accompanying consonants. All words are made from at least one syllable.

Syllables are sometimes referred to as the 'beats' of a word that form its rhythm, and breaking a word into syllables can help English learners with phonetic spelling. Another way to describe a syllable is a 'mouthful' of a word!

What is a syllable in English? – Examples:

Since we’ve answered the question of ‘what is a syllable in English?’, it’s time for us to witness them in action. Below are some examples of words with different numbers of syllables:

- 'Tie' has one syllable.
- 'Rescue' has two syllables - Res + cue
- 'Alphabet' has three syllables - Al + pha + bet
- 'Activity' has four syllables - Ac + tiv + i + ty
- 'Electricity' has five syllables - E + lec + tri + ci + ty
- A word with only one syllable can be called monosyllabic. There are names for other syllable amounts in words too: disyllabic for two, trisyllabic for three and quadrisyllabic for four. Or, you can just refer to them as polysyllabic if they have more than one!

• An important thing to note is that the length of the word doesn't affect the number of syllables it has. . [4.136] It's all about the number of vowel sounds.

- What are the six types of syllables?
- Next up in our journey of learning ‘what is a syllable in English?’, we’ll learn about the different kinds of syllable. While there are two main types of syllables, closed and open, there can also be split into six different kinds. Let’s learn a bit about what these are:

- 1) Closed Syllable
- A closed syllable is a word unit with a single vowel that ends with a consonant. These have short sounds such as bat, plant, shop and rabbit.
- 2) Open Syllable
- An open syllable is a word unit that ends with a single vowel such as go, me, you and potato.
- There are more types of syllables that you might come across in more advanced grammar, including:

- magic 'e' or vowel-consonant -e;
- R-controlled syllables;

⁴ Walker, Christopher B. F. (1990). "Cuneiform". [Reading the Past: Ancient Writing from Cuneiform to the Alphabet](#)

- diphthong (vowel team);
- and consonant 'le'.

These syllables end in a final silent 'e' (hence why they're nicknamed magic 'e' syllables) with a consonant just before the silent 'e'. The silent 'e' makes the vowel before the consonant have a long sound. Here are some examples: line, cute, mine, pine, mute, home.

This syllable is usually taught after children are familiar with short and long sounds, as well as closed and open syllables. .^[5.42] Here's a teaching tip for you: to transition from closed syllables to VCE words, try adding a silent 'E' to CVC words. For example, 'hat' becomes 'hate' and 'tap' becomes 'tape'.

In r-controlled syllable words, there's always a vowel followed by an 'r'. The 'r' gives the word a unique sound. Examples of VR words: her, fur, ear, for, purr.

This kind of syllable is taught after open, closed and VCE syllables.

A diphthong syllable usually has two vowels next to each other which are pronounced together, which is why they're dubbed 'vowel teams' - the vowels work together as a syllable. The vowel combinations are typically: ow, oe, ie, ee

Here are examples of words with diphthong syllables: tail, play, grow, oboe, eight, meet, beat, boat.

In some words, there are two vowels next to each other, but the combination is reversed when compared to a diphthong syllable where the vowels are pronounced together.

For example, many words have the vowel combination 'io' in them, such as the word 'lion'. With these vowel combinations, you split the syllable between 'i' and 'o' so that the word actually has two syllables. These syllables are still known as vowel teams.

Consonant 'le' Syllable. These syllables have no vowel sound - the silent 'e' at the end of the syllable works as the only vowel. You only pronounce the consonant and the 'l'. Examples of words with the 'le' syllable: maple, purple, turtle

Conclusion . A syllable is a unit of pronunciation that can join other syllables to form longer words or be a word in and of itself. Syllables must contain a singular vowel sound and may or may not have consonants before, after, or surrounding the vowel sound.

To illustrate this, here are some brief examples of what a syllable can look like:

- The indefinite article "a" is a syllable (one vowel sound, with no consonants).
- The word "oven" has two syllables because it has two vowel sounds – "ov" /-ʌv/ + "en" /-ən/ (each of these syllables includes a vowel sound and a consonant).

⁵ [Liddell, Henry George](#); [Scott, Robert](#); [A Greek-English Lexicon](#) at the [Perseus Project](#)

• Many words consist of only one syllable, such as "run," "fruit," "bath," and "large." Each of these comprises a combination of one vowel sound and various consonants.

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