

Chapter 5

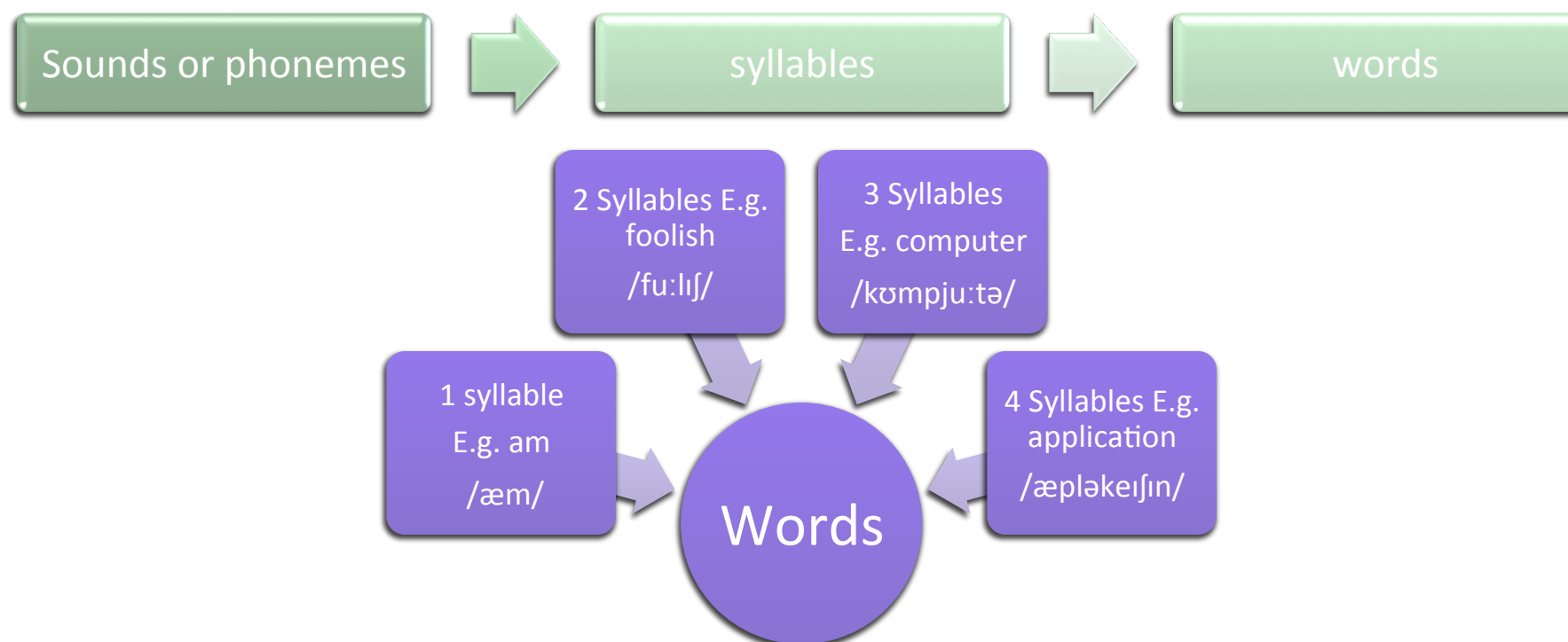


Phonetics Engl 328

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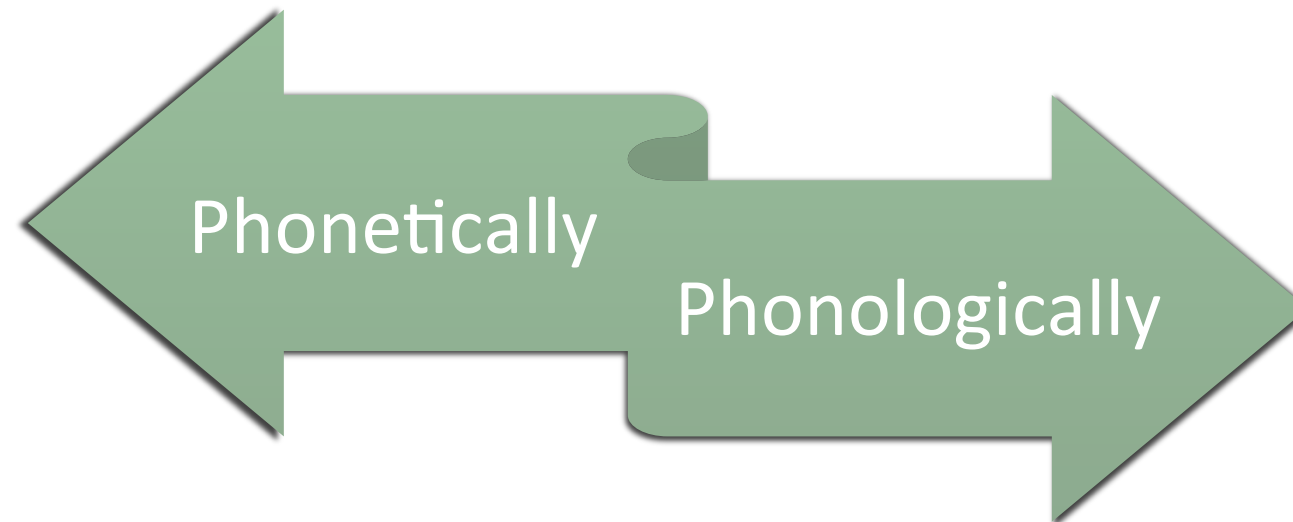
English Syllables



Generally, we count the number of syllables by counting the number of the vowels in the word

How we define a syllable and define its structure:

What do we mean by syllable?

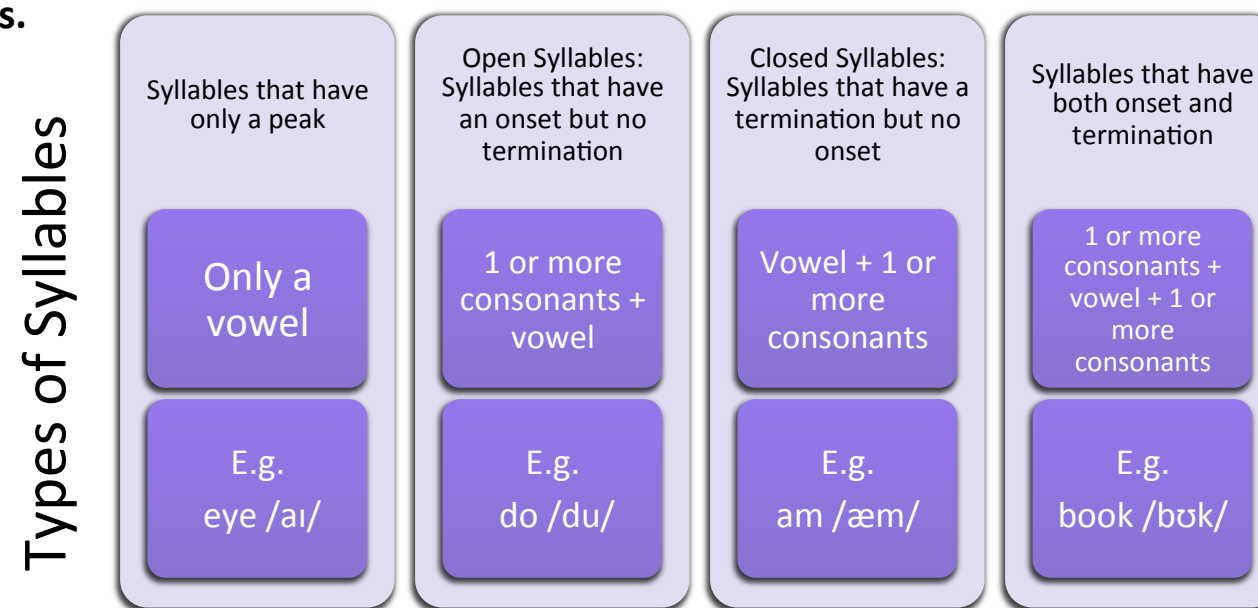


How we define a syllable and define its structure:

Phonetic definition:

It consists of a centre which has little or no obstruction to the flow of air and which sounds comparatively loud. Before and after the centre, there may be greater obstruction to the air flow and also the sound may be less loud.

I.e. The centre of the syllable is mostly a VOWEL, and the beginning and end of the syllable may be consonants.

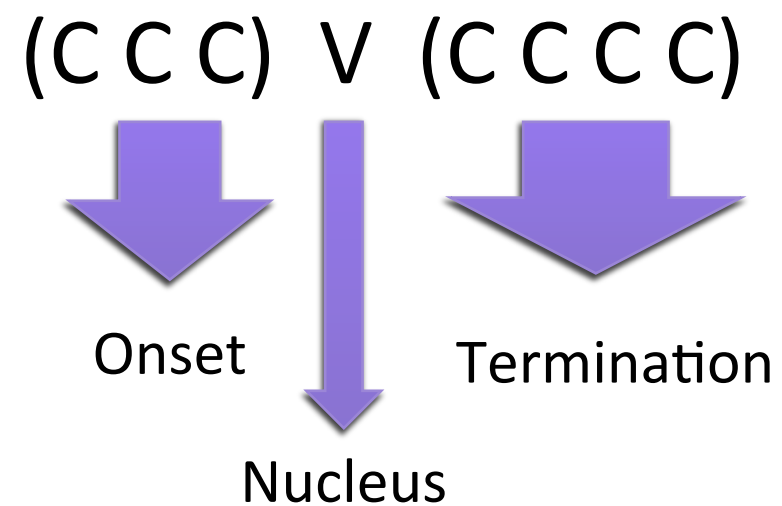


How we define a syllable and define its structure:

Phonological definition:

The word can be found with a vowel, with 1 consonant, with 2 consonants, or with 3 consonants. It can end with a vowel, with 1 consonant, with 2 consonants, with 3 consonants, or with 4 consonants.

The structure of an English syllable can be shown as:



How we define a syllable and define its structure:

The various structures possible in a syllable are:

| | |
|-------|------------------|
| V | I /aɪ/ |
| CV | be /bi/ |
| CCV | blue /blu:/ |
| CCCV | spray /spreɪ/ |
| VC | am /æm/ |
| VCC | ant /ænt/ |
| VCCC | ants /ænts/ |
| VCCCC | Very rare |
| CVC | pick /pɪk/ |
| CVCC | picks /pɪks/ |

| | |
|----------|--------------------|
| CVCCC | Tempt /tempt/ |
| CVCCCC | Texts /teksts/ |
| CCVC | Gloom /glu:m/ |
| CCVCC | Friend /frɪnd/ |
| CCVCCC | Friends /frɪndz/ |
| CCVCCCC | Twelfths /twɪlfθs/ |
| CCCVC | Stream /stri:m/ |
| CCCVCC | Streets /stri:ts/ |
| CCCVCCC | Splints /splɪnts/ |
| CCCVCCCC | Very rare |

Consonant clusters and their pronunciation:

What do we mean by consonant cluster?

When two or more consonants occur either initially or finally in a syllable.

/spl**l**nts/



Consonant cluster Consonant cluster

| Cluster | CC | | | | | | CCC | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| | First Case | | | Second Case | | | First Case | | | |
| | 1 st C | 2 nd C | Example | 1 st C | 2 nd C | Example | 1 st C | 2 nd C | 3 rd C | Example |
| Initial cluster | /s/ | /p/ | spin | /p/ | /l/, /r/, /j/ | plot, price, pure | S | /p/ | /l/ | split |
| | | /t/ | stop | /t/ | /r/, /w/, /j/ | trick, twist, tube | | | /r/ | spring |
| | | /k/ | skit | /k/ | /l/, /r/, /w/, /j/ | clap, cry, queen, queue | | | /j/ | spew |
| | | /f/ | sphere | /b/ | /l/, /r/, /j/ | blue, bright, beauty | | /t/ | /r/ | strike |
| | | /m/ | smile | /d/ | /r/, /w/, /j/ | dry, dwell, duty | | | /j/ | stew |
| | | /n/ | snack | /g/ | /l/, /r/ | glad, greet | | /k/ | /l/ | sclerosis |
| | | /l/ | slip | /f/ | /l/, /r/, /j/ | flat, fry, few | | | /r/ | scrap |
| | | /w/ | swipe | /θ/ | /r/, /w/ | three, thwart | | | /w/ | squeeze |
| | | | | /j/ | /r/ | shrink | /j/ | skew | | |
| | | | | /h/ | /j/ | huge | | | | |
| | | | | /v/ | /j/ | view | | | | |
| | | | | /m/ | /j/ | muse | | | | |
| | | | | /n/ | /j/ | news | | | | |

| Cluster | CC | | | | | | CCC | | | | CCCC | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|---|---------|-------------------|---------|---|---------|--|
| | First Case | | | Second Case | | | First Case | | Second case | | First Case | | |
| | 1 st C | 2 nd C | Example | 1 st C | 2 nd C | Example | 3 rd C | Example | 3 rd C | Example | 4 th C | Example | |
| Final cluster | /m/ | /p/ | jump | /p/ | | lips | The plural noun suffix or the singular verb suffix /s/ or /z/ | grasps | /t/ | text | The suffix /s/ is added to words with 3 consonants. | texts | |
| | /n/ | /t/ | hunt | /l/ | /s/ | false | | | | | | | |
| | | /d/ | send | /k/ | | fax | | | | | | | |
| | /ŋ/ | /k/ | think | /b/ | | robs | | hands | /θ/ | sixth | | | |
| | /l/ | /p/ | help | /d/ | /z/ | fads | | | | | | | |
| | | /t/ | belt | /g/ | | legs | | | | | | | |
| | /s/ | /k/ | milk | /k/ | | fact | The past tense suffix /t/ or /d/ | pumped | | | | | |
| | | /p/ | wasp | /p/ | /t/ | kept | | | | | | | |
| | | /t/ | past | /f/ | | left | | | | | | | |
| | | /k/ | task | /b/ | | robbed | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | /v/ | /d/ | loved | | | | | | |
| | | | | | /l/ | | gold | | | | | | |
| | | | | | /p/ | | depth | | | | | | |
| | | | | | /n/ | /θ/ | tenth | | | | | | |
| | | | | | /f/ | | fifth | | | | | | |

| Cluster | CCVCC | CCVCCC | CCVCCCC | CCCVCC | CCCVCCC |
|--|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|
| | Example | Example | Example | Example | Example |
| Cluster at both beginning and end | branch | prompt | prompts | springs | sprints |
| | trust | crafts | twelfths | script | scripts |
| | drunk | tracts | glimpsed | streets | splints |
| | graft | glimpse | | | |
| | crest | | | | |

This is all for today

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK 😊