



IIT Madras
ONLINE DEGREE

Syllables and Words

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Syllables

- A **syllable** is a unit of organization for a sequence of speech sounds.
- Syllables have nucleus (most often a vowel) with optional initial and final margins (typically, consonants).
- Words can have several syllables.
 - One syllable words
 - Two two syllable word,
 - Three syllable words,
 - Four syllable words

Words and Syllables

- One word may have one or more syllables
- Words with one syllables
 - sun life, break, tongue
- Words with two syllables
 - tiger (ti-ger), police (po-lice), between(bet-ween),
marriage(mar-riage)

Syllables

- Examples of three syllable words :

energy (e-ner-gii),

capital (ka-pi-tal),

heritage (he-ri-teg),

suffering (saf-far-ing)

- Examples of four syllable words:

Invisible(in-vi-si-ble),

aquarium (a-quar-ii-am),

education (e-du-ke-shan),

infinity (in-fi-ni-tii)

Syllables

- A syllable consists of three segments –
 - nucleus, onset, rhyme, coda
- Nucleus : a vowel or syllabic consonant, obligatory in most languages
- Onset- a consonant or consonant clusters
- Rhyme – contrasts with onset and splits into nucleus and coda

Syllables

- Nucleus : a vowel or syllabic consonant, obligatory in most languages.
- Coda: a consonant, optional in some languages, highly restricted or prohibited in others.
- Whenever words in English have more than two syllables, one of them is more accentuated. For example, the word ba_NA_na.

Words

- A single distinct meaningful element of speech or writing, used with others (or sometimes alone) to form a sentence and typically shown with a space on either side when written or printed.

Examples of words: bees, hair, matter, tall etc.

Words

Words combine to form phrases and sentences. All words belong to categories called word classes (or parts of speech) according to the part they play in a sentence. The main word classes in English are listed below.

- ☐ Noun – Book, cat, Ram
- ☐ Verb – play, sing, cry
- ☐ Adjective – tall, beautiful, red
- ☐ Adverb – loudly, really, very
- ☐ Pronoun – She, him, that

Words

- ❑ Preposition – on, at, in, above
- ❑ Conjunction – but, for, if
- ❑ Determiner – a, an, the
- ❑ Interjection – Hello!