



**IIT Madras**  
ONLINE DEGREE



# ASPIRATION, STRESS AND SYLLABIFICATION

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# Syllabification

## **How many syllables?**

1. Lexicographer
2. Magistrate
3. Civilize
4. Is
5. Boys
6. Know
7. Linguistics
8. Sorry
9. Episode
10. Neurology

# Answers

1. Lek-si-ko-gra-fe (5 syllables) / ,lək-sɪ' -kɒ-grə-fi/
2. Ma-gis-treit (3 syllables) / 'ma-dʒɪs-treit /
3. Ci-vi-laiz (3 syllables) / 'sɪ-vɪ-lʌɪz/
4. Is (One syllable) /ɪz/
5. Boiz (One syllable) /bɔɪz/
6. Know (One syllable) /nəʊ/
7. Lin -gwis-tics (Three syllables) /lɪŋ' -ɡwɪs-tɪks/
8. So-ri (2 syllables) / 'sɒ-ri/
9. e-pi-sode (3 syllables) / 'ɛ-pɪ-səʊd/
10. Nu-ro-lo-gi (4 syllables) / ,njʊə-'rɒ-lə-dʒi/

# Consonant clusters

**Give three examples of each of the following consonant clusters:**

1. Initial – CC
2. Final – CC
3. Initial – CCC
4. Final - CCC

# Answers

## 1. Initial – CC

Place (pl), tray (tr), dwell (dw)

## 2. Final – CC

Pump(mp), help (lp), adopt (pt)

## 3. Initial – CCC

Spring (spr), straight (str), scream (scr)

## 4. Final – CCC

Hands(nds) , solves (lvz), adopts (pts)

# Word stress

**Mark the stress on the appropriate syllable**

1. Object (noun)
2. Object (verb)
3. Examination
4. Memorial
5. Dining room

# Answers

1. 'Object - When a two syllable word is used as a noun or an adjective, the stress is on the first syllable.
2. Ob'ject - When a two syllable word is used as a verb, the stress is on the second syllable.
3. Exami'nation – Words ending in –ion have stress on the penultimate syllable. (the last but one syllable)
4. Me'morial – Words ending in –ial have the stress on the syllable preceding the suffix.
5. 'Dining room – Most compound words have primary stress on the first element.



# Aspiration

Which among the following words have aspirated sounds?

1. Stop
2. Pot
3. Cot
4. Oppose
5. Tame

# Answers

- Pot, cot, oppose and tame are aspirated.

## **Rules to remember**

- Voiceless stops are aspirated at the beginning of a word, and at the beginning of a stressed syllable.
- Voiceless stops are unaspirated at the beginning of an unstressed syllable. They're also unaspirated in any other position, like at the end of a syllable or the end of a word.
- Even if a syllable is stressed, a voiceless stop is unaspirated if it follows [s].
- Voiced stops are never aspirated. They're always unaspirated.