# Counting syllables

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**Tennessee** Sep 4, 2009, 6:45:58 AM

to nltk-users

Hi all,

I'll introduce myself shortly, but I just wanted to jot these thoughts down on paper before I forgot :)

I did a quick list-search to see if syllables had ever been discussed, and it didn't come up.

I'm looking at doing a simple Python implementation of the Flesch-Kincaid Reading Ease calculation (for the English language). The code is trivial except for the counting of syllables in a word. I started with the simplest thing that could possibly work, with the number of syllables in a word equalling 1 plus len(word) mod 3, which works better than you might imagine :)

A quick look around sourceforge revealed a simple Java calculator which uses some logic based on vowel splitting and a few special cases.

I wondered if anyone here had tackled syllable-counting. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syllabification has little to say on the topic other than to suggest looking up the answer in a dictionary :) ... I suppose I could compile such a list using various online dictionaries, but I haven't looked into that very hard.