

## Syllabic Consonants (pp. 68-71)

In some syllables there is no vowel and a consonant functions as the peak (nucleus). Such a consonant is referred to as syllabic consonant and the syllable is considered as weak.

The consonants that can be syllabic are nasals and approximants /l/ and /r/ (in rhotic accents).

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## Syllabic /l/

- 1. When preceded by a homorganic consonant such as /n/, /t/, and /d/, the tongue position for the preceding consonant is kept and the sides of the tongue are lowered so that there is lateral airflow. (lateral release). The /l/ is dark.

kettle /ketɫ/    tunnel /tʌnɫ/  
kettles /ketɫz/    middle /mɪdɫ/

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In transcription, the syllabic consonant is indicated by a diacritic symbol under the consonant.


Button /bʌtɫ/, bottle /bɒtɫ/

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## Syllabic /l/ (Cont.)

- 2. When a non-homorganic consonant precedes.

apple /'æpɫ/  
mingle /'mɪŋɡɫ/    + ing  
ankle /'æŋkɫ/  
table /'teɪbɫ/

 AU9, Ex 3  
p. 185

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