List of all letters according to the official order in the Ukrainian language (first lowercase, then uppercase):

А а

Б б

В в

Г г

Ґ ґ

Д д

Е е

Є є

Ж ж

З з

И и

І і

Ї ї

Й й

К к

Л л

М м

Н н

О о

П п

Р р

С с

Т т

У у

Ф ф

Х х

Ц ц

Ч ч

Ш ш

Щ щ

Ь (soft sign, only lowercase; it does not correspond to a sound but indicates some changes in pronunciation)

Ю ю

Я я

‘ (apostrophe; it does not correspond to a sound but indicates some changes in pronunciation)

List of vowels (only lowercase):

а е є и і ї о у ю я

List of sonorants (only lowercase):

в й л м н р

List of other consonants (i.e., those which are not sonorants; only lowercase):

б г ґ д ж з к п с т ф х ц ч ш щ

The soft sign and the apostrophe are special signs – they always follow a consonant and they form one unit with the previous consonant. So, they must be always attached to the previous consonant, they can never stand at the beginning of a syllable.

There are 5 zero-syllable words in Ukrainian: б, в, ж, з, й.

Always attach б and ж to the word which precedes them; attach в, з, й to the word which follows them.

When counting syllable or word length, ignore soft sign ь (be careful, in some fonts it is quite difficult to distinguish it completely from the Cyrillic в, i.e. from the letter which is v in Latin alphabet) and the apostrophe ‘. Don’t delete them, just insert some condition to the program (or word/syllable length can be determined as the number of all letters minus the number of soft signs minus the number of apostrophes in the word/syllable)

Other remarks to syllable length:

One letter (except for the soft sign and the apostrophe, see above) corresponds to one phoneme (sound), with the following exceptions:

1. Ї always corresponds to two phonemes (ji)
2. є, ю, я represent two phonemes (je, ju, ja) if they are at the beginning of a word, or if the follow a vowel (see the list above), an apostrophe, or a soft sign; otherwise they represent one phoneme
3. щ represents two phonemes
4. дж, дз represent one phoneme (non-sonorant consonant in both cases)