

Syllable Worksheets

6 printable activities for ages 5 to 10, with an answer key



- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Clap and Count | Ages 5 to 6 |
| 2. Sort the Words | Ages 5 to 7 |
| 3. Split the Word | Ages 6 to 8 |
| 4. Open or Closed? | Ages 6 to 8 |
| 5. Syllable Detective | Ages 7 to 10 |
| 6. Write a Haiku (5-7-5) | Ages 8 to 10 |

Answer key

Last page

How to use: say each word out loud and clap on every beat. Each beat is one syllable, and every syllable has one vowel sound. Check any word for free at syllablecheck.com, and learn more at syllablecheck.com/how-to-count-syllables.

AGES 5 TO 6

1. Clap and Count

Say each word and **clap** on every beat. Then **circle** how many claps you made.

cat☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4**apple**☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4**banana**☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4**sun**☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4**rabbit**☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4**butterfly**☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4**dog**☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4**tiger**☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4**elephant**☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4**fish**☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4**pencil**☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4**watermelon**☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4

AGES 5 TO 7

2. Sort the Words

Clap each word in the box. **Write** it in the column that matches its number of syllables.

pizza frog dinosaur kite monkey octopus rain
 rocket kangaroo bread carrot computer star
 window tomato

1 syllable	2 syllables	3 syllables
one clap	two claps	three claps
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

AGES 6 TO 8

3. Split the Word

Each word has **two** syllables. Write the two parts on the lines.

Tip: if two consonants sit between the vowels, split between them: **rab | bit**. If only one consonant sits between them, try splitting before it first: **ti | ger**.

rabbit

_____ | _____

napkin

_____ | _____

sunset

_____ | _____

basket

_____ | _____

muffin

_____ | _____

tiger

_____ | _____

robot

_____ | _____

pumpkin

_____ | _____

kitten

_____ | _____

lemon

_____ | _____

AGES 6 TO 8

4. Open or Closed?

A **closed** syllable ends in a consonant, so the vowel is short: **cat**. An **open** syllable ends in a vowel, so the vowel is long: **go**.

Circle **O** for open or **C** for closed.

go☐ O ☐ C**cat**☐ O ☐ C**me**☐ O ☐ C**jump**☐ O ☐ C**hi**☐ O ☐ C**desk**☐ O ☐ C**she**☐ O ☐ C**fish**☐ O ☐ C**no**☐ O ☐ C**bed**☐ O ☐ C

These words have two syllables. Circle O or C for **each part**.

ro☐ O ☐ C**bot**☐ O ☐ C**nap**☐ O ☐ C**kin**☐ O ☐ C**ba**☐ O ☐ C**by**☐ O ☐ C**mu**☐ O ☐ C**sic**☐ O ☐ C

AGES 7 TO 10

5. Syllable Detective

Count the syllables. **Write the number** in the box.

hippopotamus**watermelon****computer****kangaroo****pumpkin****splash**

Now count **every syllable in the whole sentence**.

The cat sat on the mat.**I like to eat bananas.****My butterfly is beautiful.****We saw a big giraffe at the zoo.****Yesterday a hippopotamus jumped in a puddle.**

Challenge: write your own sentence with exactly 10 syllables. Check it at syllablecheck.com.

AGES 8 TO 10

6. Write a Haiku

A **haiku** is a short poem with three lines: **5** syllables, then **7**, then **5**. It usually shows one moment in nature. Fill in a dot for every syllable you write.

Example:

Rain on my red boots (5)

I jump in each big puddle (7)

splash, splash, one more splash (5)

Plan: what moment will you write about? (rain, snow, a leaf, the moon, a bird...)

Your haiku:

Line 1

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Line 2

○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Line 3

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Check each line with the free haiku checker at syllablecheck.com/haiku.

Answer Key

1. Clap and Count

cat 1, apple 2 (ap-ple), banana 3 (ba-na-na), sun 1, rabbit 2 (rab-bit), butterfly 3 (but-ter-fly), dog 1, tiger 2 (ti-ger), elephant 3 (el-e-phant), fish 1, pencil 2 (pen-cil), watermelon 4 (wa-ter-mel-on)

2. Sort the Words

1 syllable: frog, kite, rain, bread, star. **2 syllables:** pizza, monkey, rocket, carrot, window. **3 syllables:** dinosaur, octopus, kangaroo, computer, tomato.

3. Split the Word

rab | bit, nap | kin, sun | set, bas | ket, muf | fin, ti | ger, ro | bot, pump | kin, kit | ten, lem | on. (Lemon is an exception: the first vowel is short, so we split after the m.)

4. Open or Closed?

Open: go, me, hi, she, no. **Closed:** cat, jump, desk, fish, bed. **Two syllables:** ro (O) bot (C), nap (C) kin (C), ba (O) by (O), mu (O) sic (C).

5. Syllable Detective

hippopotamus 5, watermelon 4, computer 3, kangaroo 3, pumpkin 2, splash 1.

The cat sat on the mat. 6. I like to eat bananas. 7. My butterfly is beautiful. 8. We saw a big giraffe at the zoo. 9. Yesterday a hippopotamus jumped in a puddle. 14.

6. Write a Haiku

Answers will vary. Each line should have 5, 7 and 5 syllables. Many poets treat 5-7-5 as a guide rather than a strict rule, so praise a clear picture of one moment.

More free resources: syllable counter and dictionary (syllablecheck.com), word lists by syllable count (syllablecheck.com/syllable-words), the 6 syllable types (syllablecheck.com/syllable-types) and a 1-minute video lesson on our YouTube channel, @SyllableCheck.