5 Ways to Count Syllables

1. The “Listen Method”
   a. Say the word.
   b. How many times do you hear A, E, I, O, or U as a separate sound?
   c. This is the number of syllables.

2. The “Chin Method”
   a. Put your hand under your chin.
   b. Say the word.
   c. How many times does your chin touch your hand?
   d. This is the number of syllables.

3. The “Clap Method”
   a. Clapping may help.
   b. Say the word.
   c. Clap each time you hear A, E, I, O, or U as a separate sound.
   d. The number of claps is the number of syllables.

4. The “Robot Speak Method”
   a. Imagine you’re a robot from the year 2000.
   b. Say a word as this robot.
   c. Listen to the pauses you make.
   d. How many parts does your word have?
   
   Example:
   • robot = “ro” *pause* “bot” = 2 syllables
   e. This is the number of syllables.

5. The “Written Method”
   a. Count the number of vowels (A, E, I, O, U) in the word.
      • Add 1 every time the letter ‘y’ makes an A, E, I, O, or U sound.
      • Subtract 1 for each silent vowel (like a silent ‘e’ at the end of a word).
   b. Subtract 1 for each diphthong (au, oy, oo) or triphthong (iou) in the word.
   c. Add 1 if the word ends with “le” or “les” and the letter before the “le” is not a vowel.
   d. The number you get is the number of syllables in your word.