

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.

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