



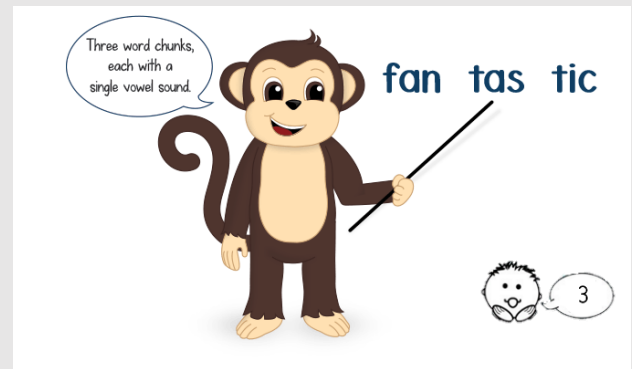
Why Syllables? What's all the fuss?

What Are Syllables?

A syllable is a "word chunk" that contains a single vowel sound. A word may have one, two, or even more syllables. For example:

- bat has one vowel sound and therefore one syllable 
- sticky has two vowel sounds and therefore two syllables 
- south has one vowel sound - /ow/ - and therefore one syllable

Syllables and writing - break longer words into manageable sized chunks for segmenting



Syllables and Reading - as children get older and more experienced they will be able to chunk words into groups of letters using the 'Syllable Rules', this will help them to read a range of longer words.

Chin talking - this is the main method we use at St Mary's when identifying how many syllables are in a word.

Here are some other ways you could explore counting syllables at home;

To count the number of syllables in a word, have kids put their hands under their chins as shown, and say the word **NORMALLY**.






Feel the number of times the chin "bumps." **THAT** is what they count! Now tell the kids to count those "chin bumps" on their fingers as they say the word!



E le phant!

4+ Fun Ways to Count Syllables

- The Jump Method**
Get active! Count each syllable by jumping in place. 
- The Hum Method**
Hum the word instead of saying the word. Count the number of hums. 
- The Clap Method**
Say the word and clap the syllables. 
- The Talk-Like-a-Robot Method**
Say the word in a robotic tone, with a pause between each word chunk. 

Syllable Rules

One vowel sound per syllable

a - e - i - o - u

Split after a ck and x

fox-es chick-en



Split compound words

home-time school-bag

Split double letters

let-ter sum-mer

Prefixes and suffixes are syllables

ing, er, re, un, in, im, ed, un

Split two consonants or words ending with ie

pen-cil mov-ie