

Phonological Awareness: Syllables

Stages of Syllables

Syllable: A segment of a word that contains one vowel sound. The vowel may or may not be preceded and/or followed by a consonant.

After students have partitioned compound words into their two smaller words, they begin to learn that words are also made of even smaller units, called syllables. Developing syllable knowledge is useful in the early stages of phonological awareness. It also has practical implications as students progress through school since syllable knowledge becomes an important part of reading and spelling multisyllabic words at all year levels. Students who develop a keen ear for syllables and eventually a good awareness of syllable patterns can use this knowledge to read and spell more effectively and efficiently.

