

Syllables: Clapping Out Word Beats in Year 1

Key points

- Syllables are the 'beats' or chunks that make up a word.
- Learning to hear these beats helps children break down longer words to make reading and spelling easier.
- This is part of phonics, which is the method schools use to teach children how to read and write by linking sounds to letters.
- Breaking words into syllables helps children sound out words when they get stuck.
- Every child learns at their own pace, and some may find certain word patterns trickier than others.

Things to try at home

- Clap out the beats in family members' names while you are chatting.
- Play a game of 'I Spy' and tap out the beats of the object you have spotted.
- Use a toy drum or a kitchen pot to drum out the beats in the names of your favourite foods.
- Try 'robot talk' by speaking in slow, chunky beats to see if your child can guess the word.

Find out more

- Your child's class teacher
- The GOV.UK website for National Curriculum information
- Your school's phonics handbook or newsletter