

5 Ways to Count Syllables

1. The “Listen Method”

- Say the word.
- How many times do you hear A, E, I, O, or U as a separate sound?
- This is the number of syllables.

2. The “Chin Method”

- Put your hand under your chin.
- Say the word.
- How many times does your chin touch your hand?
- This is the number of syllables.

3. The “Clap Method”

- Clapping may help.
- Say the word.
- Clap each time you hear A, E, I, O, or U as a separate sound.
- The number of claps is the number of syllables.

4. The “Robot Speak Method”

- Imagine you’re a robot from the year 2000.
- Say a word as this robot.
- Listen to the pauses you make.
- How many parts does your word have?
Example:
 - robot = “ro” *pause* “bot” = 2 syllables
- This is the number of syllables.

5. The “Written Method”

- 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).
- Subtract 1 for each diphthong (au, oy, oo) or triphthong (iou) in the word.
- Add 1 if the word ends with “le” or “les” and the letter before the “le” is not a vowel.
- The number you get is the number of syllables in your word.

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