

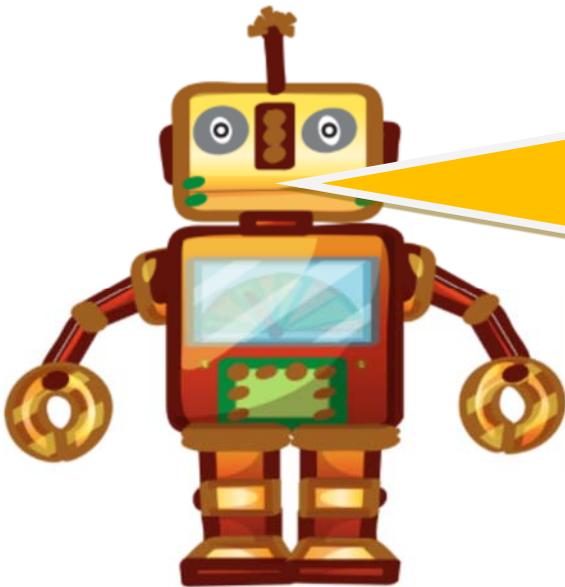
# Syllables

## Making spelling and reading easier

Spelling and reading can be made easier for your child, when they can break the word into parts. These parts are called syllables. Some words have just one syllable. Many words have two syllables, but very few words have five syllables.

## How do we count syllables

The easiest way to count syllables is to pretend to be a robot.



He-ll-o

I am a ro-bot

My name is Pe-ter

If a robot were naming animals, he would say;

Cow = **cow** = one syllable

Giraffe = **gi-raf-fe** = two syllables

Elephant = **e-le-phant** = three syllables

Alligator = **all-i-gat-or** = four syllables

Hippopotamus = **hi-ppo-pot-a-mus** = five syllables

Another good method for teaching how to count syllables is to put your hand under your chin. Say the word and count the number of times your chin bumps, e.g. Bob = one drop of the jaw, Chris-to-pher = three bumps of the chin.

Try saying these names with you hand under your chin;

Bob = **Bob** = One syllable

Tony = **To-ny** = two syllables

Christopher = **Chris-to-pher** = three syllables

Alexander = **Al-ex-an-der** = four syllables

Alexandria = **Al-ex-an-dri-a** = five syllables.

## I would like a ...

To do this you can sing with your child the words, '*I would like a ... do-nut*'.

Your child should be able to repeat what you have said and tell you the number of syllables in the food item. If they are unsure, get them to say it as a robot.

Get your child to then state what they would like and tell you the number of syllables in that food item. Have fun asking for food with three or four syllables.

The pictures below can be used as visual cues, if required.



## Guess what?

Another method used to count the parts of a word is to clap out each syllable as a beat while you say the word slowly.

In this game the child must listen as you clap out the beats and then find a picture that has the same number of syllables from the selection below

Extend this then to include items around the home.

