



كلية : الاداب

القسم او الفرع : اللغة الانكليزية

المرحلة: الثانية

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اسم المادة باللغة العربية : الصوت

اسم المادة باللغة الإنكليزية : **Phonetics and Phonology: An Introduction**

اسم المحاضرة الأولى باللغة العربية: المقطع

اسم المحاضرة الأولى باللغة الإنكليزية : **The Syllable**

What is a syllable?

- Syllable is a unit of pronunciation having **one vowel** sound, **with or without** surrounding consonants, forming the **whole** or a **part** of a word; for example, there are two syllables in **water** and three in **inferno**.

- A syllable is a single, unbroken sound of a spoken (or written) word. Syllables usually contain a **vowel** and accompanying consonants.

- Syllables differ from phonemes in that a phoneme is **the smallest unit of sound**; the number of syllables in a word is unrelated to the number of phonemes it contains. For example: /b/, /k/, /t/, /ch/, /sh/, /ee/, /ai/, /ear/ are all phonemes. The word 'chat' is made up of three phonemes (/ch/ /a/ /t/). The word 'light' is made up of three phonemes (/l/ /igh/ /t/). However, both the words 'chat' and 'light' have only one syllable each.

- The **number of times** you hear a vowel (a, e, i, o, u) in a word is equal to **the number of syllables** a word has. A good way to identify syllables is to think about whether you need to change your **mouth shape** to say the next bit of the word / **the new syllable**.

- **The nature of the Syllable**
- The Syllable may be defined both **phonetically** and **phonologically**. **Phonetically** (i.e. in relation to the way we produce them and the way they sound), syllables are usually described as consisting of a **centre** which has **little or no obstruction** to airflow and which sounds comparatively **loud**; before and after this centre (i.e. at the beginning and end of the syllable), there will be greater obstruction to airflow and/or less loud sound. We will now look at some examples:
  - i) What we will call **a minimum syllable** is a single vowel in isolation (e.g. the words 'are' a:, 'or' o:, 'err' 3:).
  - These are preceded and followed by **silence**. Isolated sounds such as m, which we sometimes produce to indicate agreement, or S, to ask for silence, must also be regarded as syllables.
  - ii) Some syllables have an **onset** - that is, instead of silence, they have one or more consonants preceding the centre of the syllable:
    - 'bar' ba: 'key' Ki: 'more' mo:
  - iii) Syllables may have no onset but have a **coda** - that is, they end with one or more consonants:
    - 'am' am 'ought' o:t 'ease' i:z
  - iv) Some syllables have both **onset** and **coda**:
    - 'ran' ran 'sat' sat 'fill' fil

**Phonologically:** It is simplest to start by looking at what can occur in initial position - at the beginning of the word. We find that the word can begin with a **vowel**, or with **one**, **two** or **three** consonants. No word begins with more than three consonants. In the same way, we can look at how a word ends; it can end with a **vowel**, or with **one**, **two**, **three** or (in a small number of cases) **four** consonants. No current word ends with more than four consonants.