

My 'simply better' Pronunciation Method

Guide to Phonetics

Multisyllabic Words



My 'simply better' Guide to Phonetics



Michael Finemore

www.apexenglishtutoring.com.au

Introduction

In all the lessons so far, I have avoided using words with more than one syllable.

What's a syllable?

Words are made up of syllables.

Take a look at the words in the sentence I have just written:

“Words are made up of syllables.”

All words except 'syllables' are one-syllable.

The word 'syllables' has 3: syl+la+bles

I have avoided them because **multisyllabic** (words with more than one syllable) involve the use of consonants.

If you have learned the phonemes for vowels and diphthongs well, you will find it easier writing multisyllabic words using phonetics.

So, this short lesson will be about multisyllabic words.

I have already mentioned that **all words have syllables**.

A word might have one, two, or even more syllables.

Reading has two syllables: read (clap)—ing (clap).

To demonstrate, clap as you say each syllable.

Blue has one syllable: blue (clap).

Pumpkin has two syllables: pump (clap)—kin (clap).

Usual has three: Us - u - al (use - you - al)

Comfortable has three (not 4): cumf-ta-ble

Unusual has four syllables: un-us-u-al

Multiplication has five:

mul-ti-plic-a-tion or muhl·tuh·pluh·kay·shun

Writing 'multiplication' in phonics is:

/,mʌl.tɪ.plɪ'keɪ.ʃən/

You will notice that there are full stops and apostrophes between the syllables.

They help you pronounce the syllables in the word using phonetic script.

So, when you are practicing writing the phonetic scripts of words you are learning, include the full stops and apostrophes.

The best way to check where to place the punctuation marks (apostrophes and full stops) is to look up the word in a dictionary.

Most good dictionaries include the phonetic pronunciation of words.

Some leave out the punctuation and just have spaces.

Both systems help you find the syllables.

Conclusion

In this short lesson, I have taught you about the use of punctuation to mark the syllables in words.

I also mentioned using spaces between the syllables to do the same thing.

Whichever method you use, the aim is to get correct pronunciation.

That includes knowing where the stressed syllables are in a word.

It's impossible to teach you the stressed syllables in every word.

So, as I suggested, checking the word in a good dictionary, will show you the stressed and unstressed syllables.

This was the last lesson teaching you the EPA.

Now, we move on to the second section: Learning the Method.

[When you are ready, click or tap to go here.](#)

Open the PDF

Learning the Method

© Apex English Tutoring

All rights reserved; no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the publisher Apex English Tutoring.