



How Can Teachers Help Learners Count Syllables?

S06E19 | For teachers to adapt to their learners

Purpose

Say the word naturally, listen for its spoken beats and mark each syllable with a tap, clap or finger movement. The aim is to help learners hear the structure of the word, not simply count letters or written vowel groups.

Try this in your next lesson

Say computer and count the syllables.

Our suggested routine

- ☐ Say computer and count the syllables.
- ☐ Mark the stressed syllable.
- ☐ Repeat with important , photograph and photography .
- ☐ Notice what happens to the stress.
- ☐ Use each word in one natural sentence.

Answers and teacher guidance

Computer: three syllables, stress on the second. Important: commonly three, stress on the second. Photograph: three, stress on the first. Photography: commonly four, stress on the second. Listen to a reliable audio model; pronunciations can vary.

After the attempt

What worked? What needs another model or a smaller step? Note one change for next time.

Read the full explanation and examples:
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