

DECODING SKILLS



CLASSROOM RESOURCES

EFL – Decoding Skills

The main aims of the following classroom resources and activities are to introduce (or review) the concept of vowels, consonants, common spelling patterns and syllable counting as a method to help decode unfamiliar words.

Enjoy.

Team Ranterino

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Lesson 1: Syllable Counting Presentation



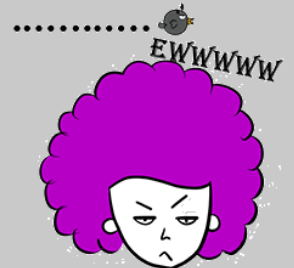
Fact 1. English spelling is rubbish!

Just look and listen to this! English is too crazy!

I plough on through the rough
although I cough.

It sounds like this:

I plaw on thru the ruff allthO I coff



Fact 2. Very often it doesn't make sense!

Why doesn't **bear** rhyme with **near** ????

Why does **bear** rhyme with **hair**, but not
hear????

It duzzunt mayke sens, duz it!



Fact 3. Rules for spelling are often broken

When I was at school the teachers taught me this rule –

I before E except after C

Believe

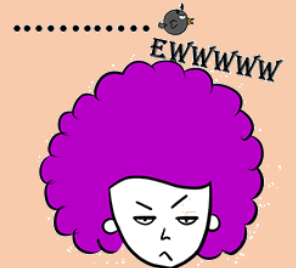
Relief

Receipt

Receive

But what about *their, weird, either, neither*?

All these words break this rule!



Fact 4. And learning to read, write and spell longer, more difficult words is...difficult.

Look at this monster word! It's crazy!

Onomatopeia



Fact 5. One way to help with spelling is to count *syllables*

But what is a syllable?

A syllable is one sound. Some words have just one syllable **J**ust

Some have two sounds
 Today

Some have lots of syllables
 su**p**er**c**al**a**f**r**a**j**al**i**st**i**c**e**x**p**ial**i**d**o**c**i**o**u**s

The word **syllable** has how many syllables...?

Syll / **a** / **ble**

Syllable has 3 syllables



Q1. Why does it help to count syllables?



Q2. How do you count syllables?

Why does it help?

Say this word: competition

Competition is my spelling mistake. It should say competition. I always make this mistake when I am typing on my computer. I forget a syllable. Maybe you do that too sometimes with other words when you write.

Look at the vowels (A E I O U). If you say the word you can hear 4 syllables. This means there should be 4 vowel sounds...

1 2 3 4

Com / pe / ti / tion



What to do?

So, if you are trying to spell a word and you are not sure how to spell it...

1. say the word and count the **syllables** so you know how many parts there are (holiday = **ho** / **li** / **day** which is 3 parts).
2. Now try and spell the first part of the word, then the next, then the next, syllable by syllable.
3. Check in a dictionary!!!! People who use dictionaries become good spellers!

When you learn a new word, write it down until you have learnt it by heart!

And remember there are many, many words in English that you simply have to learn how to spell. They have no rule to help you! Look at these....

Can you see any vowels in these words?

by, my, dry, why, fly,
cry, gym, gypsy,
rhythm

How can you count the vowels when there are no vowels???



Ok, so counting syllables and thinking about vowels can be helpful (sometimes). So let's find the vowels and count the syllables in some words you know...

altogether

packet

coupon





Class Information: _____

How many vowel sounds / syllables in these words?

Word	Number of Syllables
interesting	
activities	
instrument	
tiny	
naughty	
breakfast	
thought	
beautiful	
factories	
picnic	

Lesson 2: The *Syllable Counting Kahoot* Quizzes

Run through the first and second syllable-counting quizzes on Kahoot to revise some of the associated words from the previous lesson.

*PCs / tablets required for this. One PC or tablet per group.

If you are familiar with Kahoot and you have an account, just go into the Public Kahoots Search section and type in these:

Syllable Counting Kahoot 1

Syllable Counting Kahoot 2



New to Kahoot?

There is a full explanation of the Kahoot quizzes in the Teachers' Section at www.theranterino.com.

Lesson 3 & 4: Make Your Own Syllable Counting *Kahoot* Quiz

Lesson 3

1. Having played the two syllable counting Kahoots, students are now familiar with concept of Kahoot quizzes. Split the class into small groups of 3-5 students and tell them that they are to make a mini-kahoot quiz of their own based on syllable counting.
2. Hand out the double sided OUR KAHOOT worksheet and a dictionary to each group and tell them to make 8 questions, similar in style to either Syllable Counting Kahoot 1 or 2. Tell them they can use any words they like from the dictionary, or if you want to revise and focus on pre-taught vocabulary, tell them to look through their exercise or text books, or word bank books if they have them. (Although you will not use all 8 questions from every group in the final Kahoot quiz, this is the time for them to practice looking at words and counting syllables as they make their questions.)
3. Collect in the questions from each group. Choose 20 questions from the total and create a Kahoot quiz for your class, ready to be played in the next lesson. Be sure to choose a similar amount of questions from each group's questions.

Lesson 4

1. Play the Kahoot. Add in bonus questions between kahoot questions, focusing on words from the quiz which were used as wrong answers.



QUESTIONS 1-4 OUR KAHOOT WORKSHEET



GROUP NAME: _____

Q1: _____

Q2: _____

Q3: _____

Q4: _____

Kahoot!



QUESTIONS 5-8 OUR KAHOOT WORKSHEET



GROUP NAME: _____

Q5: _____

Q6: _____

Q7: _____

Q8: _____

Have fun learning!
www.theranterino.com