

Saying Words in “Beats” (or syllables)

Explain that it’s easier to tackle big words for reading and for spelling by chunking them into their “beats” (syllables) first.

Directions:

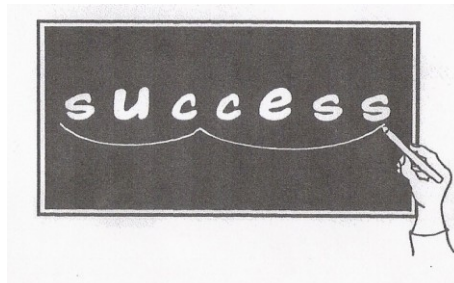
This is a very quick, oral exercise.

Choose a word from the list below. Say it naturally, and have students repeat after you. Then ask them to say the word in “beats.” e.g. specialist, spe-cial-ist

Model a few examples. Encourage students to clap, or tap their hand on the desk with each beat. Encourage them to categorize the word as having 2-syllables, 3-syllables, 4-syllables, or 5-syllables. Practice with several words. If students have difficulty, continue to model for them.

Option: Ask students to quickly use the word in a sentence.

Option: Once students have orally repeated and then chunked several words, print a few on an overhead or on the board. Show how they look when the syllables are scooped (i.e. a smooth, continuous line is drawn underneath each syllable in a scooping motion). Practice reading the words one syllable at a time.



2 syllables	3 syllables	4 syllables	5 syllables
cancer	medical	relationship	antibiotics
liver	family	difficulty	
abuse	history	alcoholism	
attack	pregnancy	anemia	
problem	employer	orthodontic	
	paperwork	dyslexia	