

Syllable Sleuth Sort

Use dictionary-style word breaks to count syllables.

4.3.A “use print or digital resources to determine meaning, syllabication, and pronunciation;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

TWO SYLLABLES

This word has two syllable parts. A dictionary may show the parts with dots or hyphens.

mu-sic

THREE SYLLABLES

This word has three syllable parts. Count each part shown by the dictionary.

oc-to-pus

1 SORT

8 items

For each dictionary-style word, circle TWO or THREE, then pick two items and explain how the syllable breaks helped you decide.

1. el-e-phant

TWO

THREE

2. nap-kin

TWO

THREE

3. pen-cil

TWO

THREE

4. com-pu-ter

TWO

THREE

5. um-brel-la

TWO

THREE

6. vol-ca-no

TWO

THREE

7. bas-ket

TWO

THREE

8. an-i-mal

TWO

THREE

2 PROVE IT Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN One of each

Write one new word with two syllables and one new word with three syllables. Show the syllable breaks in each word.

TWO _____

THREE _____

CHALLENGE

Use a print or digital dictionary to find a four-syllable word. Copy its syllable breaks and write how you would pronounce it.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	el-e-phant	THREE	The word is divided into three syllables: el, e, phant.
2	nap-kin	TWO	The word is divided into two syllables: nap, kin.
3	pen-cil	TWO	The word is divided into two syllables: pen, cil.
4	com-pu-ter	THREE	The word is divided into three syllables: com, pu, ter.
5	um-brel-la	THREE	The word is divided into three syllables: um, brel, la.
6	vol-ca-no	THREE	The word is divided into three syllables: vol, ca, no.
7	bas-ket	TWO	The word is divided into two syllables: bas, ket.
8	an-i-mal	THREE	The word is divided into three syllables: an, i, mal.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **TWO:** sun-set
- **THREE:** to-ma-to

Challenge: com-mu-ni-ty, kuh-MYOO-nuh-tee

For Part 2, students should point to the hyphen-separated parts and state the number of syllables in each chosen word. Accept other correctly syllabicated words for Part 3 and any accurate four-syllable dictionary word for the challenge.