

# ■ Counting Syllables ■

Clap it out and count the beats in each word!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

A **syllable** is a beat in a word. Clap your hands once for each beat you hear! The word **cat** has 1 clap (cat). The word **ta-ble** has 2 claps (ta-ble). The word **el-e-phant** has 3 claps (el-e-phant).

## Part 1: Clap and Count

Say each word out loud, clap for each beat, then write the number of syllables.

| Word      | How many syllables? | Word         | How many syllables |
|-----------|---------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| dog       | _____               | television   | _____              |
| banana    | _____               | ball         | _____              |
| sun       | _____               | rainbow      | _____              |
| butterfly | _____               | hippopotamus | _____              |
| cake      | _____               | book         | _____              |
| water     | _____               | spider       | _____              |

## Part 2: Circle the Right Number

Look at each picture word below. Circle how many syllables (claps) it has.

| Word     | Circle the number of syllables |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| apple    | 1   2   3   4                  |
| dinosaur | 1   2   3   4                  |
| cat      | 1   2   3   4                  |
| umbrella | 1   2   3   4                  |
| bicycle  | 1   2   3   4                  |
| fish     | 1   2   3   4                  |

### Part 3: Draw the Beats

For each word, draw one box for every syllable (beat) you clap. Example: **pencil** = 2 beats → ■ ■

| Word        | Draw a box for each beat |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| shoe        |                          |
| monkey      |                          |
| caterpillar |                          |
| star        |                          |
| computer    |                          |
| octopus     |                          |

### Part 4: Sort the Words

Write each word from the box into the correct column below, based on how many syllables it has.

**Word Box:** sun · rabbit · alligator · dog · pencil · watermelon · cup · turtle · caterpillar

| 1 Syllable | 2 Syllables | 3+ Syllables |
|------------|-------------|--------------|
|            |             |              |
|            |             |              |
|            |             |              |
|            |             |              |

■ Great job! You're a syllable superstar! ■

# Answer Key — Counting Syllables (Kids)

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**Part 1:**

dog=1, banana=3, sun=1, butterfly=3, cake=1, water=2, television=4, ball=1,  
rainbow=2, hippopotamus=5, book=1, spider=2

**Part 2:** apple=2, dinosaur=3, cat=1, umbrella=3, bicycle=3, fish=1

**Part 3:** shoe=1, monkey=2, caterpillar=4, star=1, computer=3, octopus=3

**Part 4:** 1 syllable: sun, dog, cup. 2 syllables: rabbit, pencil, turtle. 3+ syllables: alligator, watermelon, caterpillar.