

## Syllables

An important part of learning any language is the use of syllables. My definition of syllables is the parts of a word separated during speech. The separations make the word ea-si-er (easier) to say. If you can find a way to notice where the sy-lla-bles are, then learning any lan-guage will be easier. How-ever, where the words are changed into 2 or more sections depends on the lan-guage and the lan-gua-ge's location. A word will be separated in different places by an English and a Portuguese speaker for example. Slang use of words from many locations can change the syllables used. Particularly can be fully pronounced as Par-ti-cu-lar-ly but is often pronounced as Per-ti-cu-ly due to deletion of letters and simpler pronunciation.

It should be noted at this point that English native speakers often change vowels into an E when speaking. As is the case with Particularly in the example above.

When learning to speak English (and write) it really accelerates your progress if you use this technique. Find an example of someone else using the word, you want to learn. After hearing the word spoken draw vertical lines in the word to illustrate where the syllables are. E.g. con | ti | nui | ty (continuity). This type of visual stimulus can train your brain to see where the syllables are. After doing this for a while you will instinctively realise where the syllables are.

In my lessons I often use syllables to correct people's pronunciation and have find it to be very effective. I'll say the word 3 or more times and get the student to repeat what I say each time. I firstly say it in sections, then closer together and finally as it is usually said. I may also say the word quicker than its usual speed and then give examples of it being used in sen-ten-ces. This gives the person many different ways to use the word and always results in them being comfortable with it. I've even had students use the technique to teach me their language and I realised just how useful it is. It gave me correct pronunciation of the words but most importantly I remembered the words/phrases at a later time and can still use them.

Many English words are a combination of words. I didn't realise until recently that Tomorrow used to be 2 separate words (to-morrow). Other combinations include somewhere, elsewhere, anywhere, something, someone, somebody, someday & somehow. The trick with these words is to underline one of the words as I have done with the examples above. Therefore, if you can pronounce both of the words individually you can say the combined word. Also if you understand the meaning of 1 or both separate words you can guess what the meaning is without a dictionary (hurrah). For example Some means an unspecific amount and Where refers to a location. So you can work out that Somewhere means an unknown location or an amount of land that is unknown. I want to go somewhere fantastic today (repeat this one). On the subject of syllables, words that are combined are usually single syllable words, but not always.

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