

# 1A Syllable snap

**Activity type:** Pronunciation – Card game – Pairs

**Aim:** To practise identifying the number of syllables in words and short phrases

**Language:** Syllables – Use at any point from 1.1.

**Preparation:** Make one copy of the worksheet for every two learners. Cut up each worksheet along the dotted lines to make a set of 32 cards.

**Time:** 15–20 minutes

- 1 Learners sit in pairs. Give each pair a set of cards, face down, and ask them to divide the set into two equal piles of 16 cards, each learner taking one pile.
- 2 Explain that when the game starts, the learners turn over the top card on their pile at the same time, place it face up next to their pile, and look at the words and phrases written on these two cards. If learners think the words/phrases contain the same number of syllables they shout ‘Snap!’ Learners count the number of syllables together, to make sure, saying the word or phrase aloud, and if the number of syllables is the same on the two cards, the learner who shouted first wins the two cards and adds them to the bottom of his/her pile. If not, the other learner takes the cards instead.
- 3 Start the game. The game continues until one learner has won all the cards.

1 syllable: *boss, wife, phone, friend*

2 syllables: *daughter, Hello, teacher, Goodbye, colleague, English, girlfriend, postcode, website, brother, husband, student*

3 syllables: *How are you?; What’s your name?; I can’t swim; Hi, I’m Tim; We’re from Spain; I speak French.*

4 syllables: *Where are you from?; My name’s Anna; He’s from Japan; What’s your address?; email address; This is my son.*

5 syllables: *She’s American; My surname is Smith; Can you speak English?; How do you spell that?*

## Note

Before giving out the sets of cards you may wish to drill the pronunciation of the words and phrases (or of a different set of words and phrases) with the whole class, to check that learners can correctly identify the number of syllables in each case.

## Weaker classes

The 5-syllable phrases are all at the bottom of the worksheet. With weaker classes, you can leave these off and use only the 1-, 2-, 3- and 4-syllable words and phrases.

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How are you?	What's your name?	daughter	Hello.
teacher	Goodbye.	Where are you from?	My name's Anna.
colleague	English	I can't swim.	Hi, I'm Tim.
girlfriend	postcode	boss	wife
He's from Japan.	What's your address?	student	husband
phone	friend	We're from Spain.	I speak French.
website	brother	email address	This is my son.
She's American.	My surname is Smith.	Can you speak English?	How do you spell that?