

English Collocations- Counting Syllables Consonant Clusters Practice

Put the words in one group below together to make common English collocations (mainly compound nouns) with two syllables, three syllables, four syllables and five syllables. There should be one of each, so label the collocations with their number of syllables to check, making sure you can actually pronounce them that way.

cloak
dry
freelance
TV

cleaning
presenter
room
writer

classical
spring
sun
windscreen

glasses
music
roll
wipers

orange
sixth
the Czech
thirty

five amps
place
republic
squash

fifteen
handbag
straight
workplace

bullying
hundredths
line
strap

blue
filmed
plastic
track

chip company
in 3D
straw
suit

hair
Phillips
sticky
strained

ankle
label
screwdriver
spray

day
horror
needs
URL

analysis
film
links
trip

Go through the answers as a class, saying the collocations from the shortest to the longest in each section, making sure you pronounce them with the right number of syllables each time.

Answer key

2- cloak room
3- dry cleaning
4- freelance writer
5- TV presenter

2- spring roll
3- sunglasses
4- windscreen wipers
5- classical music

2- sixth place
3- orange squash
4- thirty five amps
5 – the Czech Republic

2- straight line
3- handbag strap
4- fifteen hundredths
5- workplace bullying

2- track suit
3- plastic straw
4- filmed in 3D
5- blue chip company

2- hairspray
3- strained ankle
4- sticky label
5- Phillips screwdriver

2- daytrip
3- horror film
4- URL links
5- needs analysis

Find individual words above with consonant clusters (= two or more consonants together without a vowel between them, like “pl” or “ths”). Mark the number of syllables on those words and make sure you can pronounce them that way, without adding extra unnecessary syllables.

Say collocations from above and see if your partner can count the number of syllables without looking above. Then do the same with individual words from above and your own ideas. Then tap out a number of syllables and see if your partner can make a word or expression that matches that number of syllables.