

Talk a Lot

Books

General Questions

1. Are there any words or phrases that you don't know? Find them in a dictionary.
2. Take some cards. Describe the word or phrase on a card without saying it.
3. How many words and phrases have... a) 1 syllable, b) 2 syllables, c) 3 syllables, d) 4 syllables, e) 6 syllables?
4. Put words and phrases with more than one syllable into groups according to where the strong stress falls.
5. Put the words and phrases into alphabetical order.
6. Find and put into groups... a) compound nouns, b) words with suffixes.
7. Find words that... a) begin with a vowel sound, b) end with a vowel sound, c) begin with a consonant sound, d) end with a consonant sound. Put them into sound groups.
8. Find words which contain silent letters (letters which are not pronounced).
9. How many words and phrases can you remember when they are all turned over?
10. Put words and phrases that contain the same sounds into groups, using the IPA.

Lesson Questions

1. Which word sounds like... a) slot, b) tray, c) stage, d) bird, e) wine, f) vital?
2. Which word is something that actors rehearse, then perform at a theatre?
3. This word means a person who write books.
4. Find all of the different kinds (genres) of books, e.g. "romance", and describe them.
5. This is a place where I can buy books.
6. i) Find a word which has a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the... a) 1st syllable, b) 2nd syllable, c) 3rd syllable, etc. ii) Do any words and phrases *not* have a schwa?
7. This is a book that I can download from the internet and read on a screen.
8. Which word means... a) opening, b) heading, c) tale, d) picture, e) verse?
9. This is a block of text in a book, or on a web page, that contains several different sentences.
10. "I like a good story, so the _____ of a novel is really important to me."
11. You could use these two things to find a particular reference in a book.

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Discussion Words Question Sheet

Answers

General Questions

1. Answers will vary.

2. Answers will vary.

3. a) 5 words have 1 syllable: word, plot, spine, play, page. b) 16 words have 2 syllables: novel, chapter, bookshop, author, romance, index, genre, story, title, fiction, thriller, hardback, ebook, sentence, contents, reader. c) 14 words and phrases have 3 syllables: non-fiction, fantasy, paperback, library, front cover, character, paragraph, back cover, poetry, children's book, literature, quotation, translation, page number. d) 4 words and phrases have 4 syllables: introduction, illustration, biography, science fiction. e) 1 word has 6 syllables: autobiography.

4. 2 syllables: these words have the strong stress on the first syllable: **novel, chapter, bookshop, author, index, genre, story, title, fiction, thriller, hardback, ebook, sentence, contents, reader**; this word has the strong stress on the second syllable: **romance**. 3 syllables: these words and phrases have the strong stress on the first syllable: **page number, paperback, library, character, paragraph, poetry, children's book, literature, fantasy**; these words and phrases have the strong stress on the middle syllable: non-**fiction**, front **cover**, back **cover**, **translation, quotation**. 4 syllables: this word has the strong stress on the second syllable: **biography**; these words and phrases have the strong stress on the third syllable: **introduction, illustration, science fiction**. 6 syllables: this word has the strong stress on the fourth syllable: **autobiography**.

5. Author, autobiography, back cover, biography, bookshop, chapter, character, children's book, contents, ebook, fantasy, fiction, front cover, genre, hardback, illustration, index, introduction, library, literature, non-fiction, novel, page, page number, paperback, paragraph, play, plot, poetry, quotation, reader, romance, science fiction, sentence, spine, story, thriller, title, translation, word.

6. a) The following words are compound nouns: bookshop (book + shop), paperback (paper + back), hardback (hard + back). b) The following words and phrases contain suffixes: **chapter, front cover, thriller, character, page number, back cover, reader**; non-**fiction, science fiction, illustration, fiction, introduction, quotation, translation**; **biography, autobiography**; **story, poetry**; **novel**; **fantasy**; **author**; **romance**; **library**; **index**; **genre**; **title**; **paragraph**; **sentence**; **contents**; **literature**; **children's book**.

7. a) These words all begin with a vowel sound (grouped by IPA sound): /ɔ:/ **author**; /ɪ/ **index, illustration, introduction**; /i:/ **ebook**.

b) These words and phrases all end with a vowel sound (grouped by IPA sound): /i/ **autobiography, fantasy, library, story, biography, poetry**; /ə/ **author, genre, front cover, thriller, character, number, reader, back cover, chapter, literature**; /eɪ/ **play**.

c) These words and phrases all begin with a consonant sound (grouped by IPA sound): /p/ **paperback, paragraph, plot, page**; /s/ **science fiction, spine, sentence**; /n/ **novel, non-fiction**; /t/ **title, translation**; /k/ **contents, quotation**; /b/ **bookshop**; /r/ **romance**; /w/ **word**; /f/ **fiction**; /h/ **hardback**; /tʃ/ **children's book**.

d) These words and phrases all end with a consonant sound (grouped by IPA sound): /n/ **translation, non-fiction, science fiction, illustration, fiction, spine, introduction, quotation**; /k/ **paperback, ebook, hardback, children's book**; /s/ **romance, index, sentence, contents**; /l/ **title, novel**; /p/ **bookshop**; /d/ **word**; /t/ **plot**; /f/ **paragraph**; /dʒ/ **page**.

8. Many English words contain one or more **silent letters** – letters which are part of the spelling of a word, but which are not pronounced. The aim of this activity is to demonstrate how so often the spelling of a word in English is different from how it sounds when spoken. Below are some good examples of words in this group of discussion words that have silent letters. The silent letters are shown in brackets. No doubt your students will be able to identify some more.

paperba [c] k, autho [r], romanc [e], thril [l] er, spin [e], re [a] der, introduct [i] on, pag [e], c [h] aracter

9. Answers will vary.

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Discussion Words Question Sheet

10. There are many possible answers to this question; for example, “chapter”, “fantasy”, and “character” all contain the vowel sound /æ/. Use the phonetic chart on p.18.6 of the **Talk a Lot Elementary Handbook** (available free from www.englishbanana.com/talkalot) and the phonetic spellings of the vocabulary words on the *Discussion Words (with the IPA)* handout to help your students put the words into sound groups.

Lesson Questions

1. a) plot. b) play. c) page. d) word. e) spine. f) title.

2. Play.

3. Author.

4. The different genres of books are: **children’s book** – a book written specially for children; **fantasy** – a book featuring plots and characters that would not be possible in the real world; **romance** – a love story; **science fiction** – a book with a plot about how the future could be; **fiction** – a book which is not true, but has been made up by the author, e.g. a novel; **thriller** – a book with a fast-moving plot about crime; **biography** – somebody’s life story – usually a famous person; **literature** – this word describes books written many years ago that have been accepted as classics, e.g. “Oliver Twist” by Charles Dickens; **autobiography** – this is somebody’s life story – usually a famous person – that has been written by the person whose life it describes; **non-fiction** – a book which is true, and has not been made up, for example on a topic such as wildlife, history, geography, politics, cookery, etc.

5. Bookshop.

6. i) a) Words which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 1st syllable: none. b) Words and phrases which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 2nd syllable: reader, chapter, fantasy, paperback, author, science fiction, library, illustration, genre, title, fiction, thriller, character, paragraph, introduction, poetry, sentence, children’s book, novel. c) Words which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 3rd syllable: back cover, biography, page number, character, front cover, quotation, translation, non-fiction, literature. d) Words which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 4th syllable: science fiction, illustration, introduction. e) Words which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 5th syllable: autobiography. ii) 12 words don’t have a weak stress schwa sound: bookshop, romance, word, index, story, plot, spine, play, hardback, ebook, page, contents.

7. Ebook.

8. a) introduction. b) title. c) story. d) illustration. e) poetry.

9. Paragraph.

10. Plot.

11. **Contents** – at the front of a book; **index** – at the back of a book.

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