

Talk a Lot

Learning English

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) 5 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. Put together words and phrases that have the same number of letters.
8. Put together words and phrases that start with the same letter.
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) round, b) curb, c) bird, d) owl, e) better, f) fighting?
2. Which word or phrase means a verb that has no meaning in a sentence?
3. Which word or phrase has twenty six letters?
4. Put all of the different parts of a sentence together into a group, and give five examples of each.
5. This book contains thousands of words in alphabetical order.
6. a) Put all of the different skills into a group. b) Put them into order depending on how important they are when you are learning English.
7. This is something that you can't do in the classroom.
8. Find all of the people and say what each one does.
9. This is something that students and teachers all look forward to from time to time!
10. Almost every word in English contains at least one of these.
11. Put all of the words and phrases that begin with a vowel sound into a group, then group them by vowel sound.

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Discussion Words Question Sheet

Answers

General Questions

- Answers will vary.
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- a) 11 words have 1 syllable: word, course, class, vowel, school, noun, stress, verb, test, break, sound. b) 16 words have 2 syllables: student, grammar, partner, answer, letter, speaking, lesson, question, sentence, writing, teacher, homework, language, reading, level, spelling. c) 7 words have 3 syllables: consonant, alphabet, example, listening, syllable, exercise, adjective. d) 1 word has 4 syllables: dictionary. e) 5 words and phrases have 5 syllables: auxiliary verb, qualification, vocabulary, pronunciation, examination.
- 2 syllables: all of the words have the strong stress on the first syllable: **student, grammar, partner, answer, letter, speaking, lesson, question, sentence, writing, teacher, homework, language, reading, level, spelling**. 3 syllables: these words have the strong stress on the first syllable: **consonant, alphabet, listening, syllable, adjective, exercise**; this word has the strong stress on the middle syllable: **example**. 4 syllables: this word has the strong stress on the first syllable: **dictionary**. 5 syllables: these words and phrases have the strong stress on the second syllable: **auxiliary verb, vocabulary**; these words have the strong stress on the fourth syllable: **qualification, pronunciation, examination**.
- Adjective, alphabet, answer, auxiliary verb, break, class, consonant, course, dictionary, examination, example, exercise, grammar, homework, language, lesson, letter, level, listening, noun, partner, pronunciation, qualification, question, reading, school, sentence, sound, speaking, spelling, stress, student, syllable, teacher, test, verb, vocabulary, vowel, word, writing.
- a) The following word is a compound noun: homework (home + work). b) The following words contain suffixes: **speaking, writing, listening, reading, spelling; qualification, question, pronunciation, examination; partner, answer, letter, teacher; vocabulary, dictionary; example, syllable; consonant; grammar; lesson; exercise; adjective**.
- 4 letters:** noun, test, verb, word. **5 letters:** break, class, level, sound, vowel. **6 letters:** answer, course, lesson, letter, school, stress. **7 letters:** example, grammar, partner, reading, student, teacher, writing. **8 letters:** alphabet, exercise, homework, language, question, sentence, speaking, spelling, syllable. **9 letters:** adjective, consonant, listening. **10 letters:** dictionary, vocabulary. **11 letters:** examination. **13 letters:** auxiliary verb, pronunciation, qualification.
- See answer to number 5 above.
- Answers will vary.
- There are many possible answers to this question; for example, "grammar", "alphabet", and "adjective" 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) 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

- a) sound. b) verb. c) word. d) vowel. e) letter. f) writing.
- Auxiliary verb.
- Alphabet.
- Answers will vary. Sample answer: **auxiliary verb** (be, do, have, can, must); **noun** (coat, dog, house, pencil, shop); **verb** (go, eat, read, have, be); **adjective** (big, small, hot, cold, purple). *Note: students may also suggest that other words are technically part of a sentence too, such as "word", "letter", "consonant", "vowel", etc.*
- Dictionary.
- a) grammar, speaking, spelling, writing, listening, reading, pronunciation, vocabulary. b) Answers will vary.

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Discussion Words Question Sheet

7. Homework. (It should be done at home!)

8. **Teacher** – prepares and teaches lessons; **partner** – somebody with whom you can work during a lesson; **student** – a person who has lessons in order to learn something.

9. Break.

10. Vowel.

11. The following words and phrases begin with a vowel sound: /ɔ:/ **auxiliary verb**; /ɑ:/ **answer**; /æ/ **alphabet, adjective**; /e/ **example, exercise, examination**.

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