

## 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 length in each section, so label the collocations with their number of syllables to check, making sure that you can actually pronounce them that way.*

cloak	cleaning
dry	presenter
freelance	room
TV	writer
classical	glasses
spring	music
sun	roll
windscreen	wipers
orange	five amps
sixth	place
the Czech	republic
thirty	squash
fifteen	bullying
handbag	hundredths
straight	line
workplace	strap
blue	chip company
filmed	in 3D
plastic	straw
track	suit
hair	ankle
Phillips	label
sticky	screwdriver
strained	spray
day	analysis
horror	film
needs	links
URL	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 and without losing sounds.*

*Test each other on counting syllables:*

- Say an expression from above and see if your partner can count the syllables
- Say a single word from above and see if your partner can count the syllables
- Say half of an expression above and how many syllables the whole expression should have, and see if your partner can complete it