**Assistant Instructor**

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**Phonetics & Phonology**

**Ch.8**

**The Syllable**

**Second Stage**

**Syllable:** is a unit of sound in spoken language that contains a vowel and one or more consonants. It is forming the basic unit of rhythm in a word. Ex: err /ɜːr/

fur /fɜːr/

**Basic Structure of the Syllable:**

- the obligatory vowel within the syllable structure is called peak (centre)

-Consonants preceding the peak are called onset.

-Consonants following the peak are called coda.

-If the syllable starts with a vowel, it is called zero onset.

-If the syllable ends with a vowel, it is called zero coda

**Types of Syllable in English**

1.Minimum syllable is a single vowel in isolation (e.g. the words ‘are’ /a:/, ‘or’ /o:/)

2.Peak preceded by onset such as ‘bar’ /ba/: ‘key’/ ki:/

3.Peak following by coda such as ‘am’ aem ‘ought’ /o:t/

4.Peak preceded by onset and followed by coda such as ‘ran’ /raen/ ‘sat’ /saet/.

**Consonant cluster:** refers to the occurrence of two or more consonants together without any vowel in between.

• The maximum number of **onset** in English is **three consonants**.

•The maximum number of **coda** in English is **four consonants**.

**The Structure of the English Syllable**

•**Initial two-consonant clusters (onset) are of two sorts in English**.

1. Pre-initials and initial is composed by **/s/** **(pre-initial)** followed by one of a small set of consonants **/t, m , w/ (initial)** such as ‘sting’, ‘sway’, ‘smoke’.

2.Initial and post initial is composed by a set of fifteen consonants;

**(Initial)**

-**plosives /p, b, k, t, d, g/**

**-** **Fricatives /f, v, s, z,** **ʃ, ʒ/**

**-Nasals** /m, n,

followed by**/ l, r, j, w/ (post initial)** such as ‘play’ plei, ‘try’ trai, ‘quick’ kwik, ‘few’ fju:

**•Final position two consonants** **)any consonant may be a final consonant except h, w, j), There are two sorts of two-consonant final cluster:**

1. (nasals + l, s) such as ‘bump’, ‘bent’, ‘belt’ ‘ask’

2. (s, z, t, d, ϴ) such as ‘bagged’ baegd, ‘eighth’ eit ϴ.

**•Final position three consonants** ;**there are two types of final three-consonant cluster:**

1.The first is pre-final plus final plus post-final



2- The second one is final plus post-final 1 plus post-final 2



**•Final position four consonants;** **there are two types of final four-consonant cluster:**

1.Pre-final plus final plus post final 1 plus post final 2



2- Final plus post final 1 plus post final 2 plus post final 3



**The English syllable as having the following maximum phonological structure**:



**Ex:** **Using the analysis of the word 'cramped' given below as a model, analyze the structure of the following one-syllable** **English words:**

