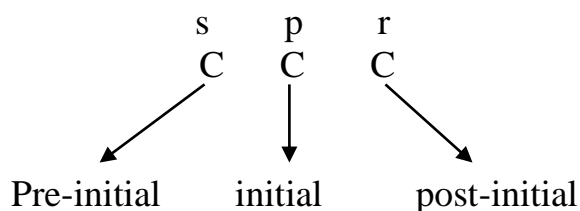


The structure of English Syllable

It is important to study syllables according to the relationship between them and their distributions. Sometimes the word doesn't have onset, in this case it is called **zero onset syllable** as in /a:m/.

Onset may consist of:

- 1- One consonant e.g. **book** /buk/
- 2- Two consonants or consonant cluster begin with /s/ or /p/ as in **slip** /slip/ and **play** /plei/. It might be classified as:
 - a- Two consonants: s+ other consonant e.g. **stop** /stɒp/, the sound /s/ is called pre-initial and the sound /t/ is considered as initial.
 - b- Consonant other than /s/ e.g. **play** /plei/, the /p/ is initial and the /l/ is post initial.
- 3- Onset with three consonants (CCC): it might begin with /s/ as in **spring** /spring/.

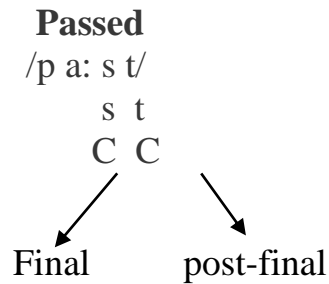


Onset of three consonants usually begins with /s/ sound which is called a pre-initial

4- Onset + Center + Coda:

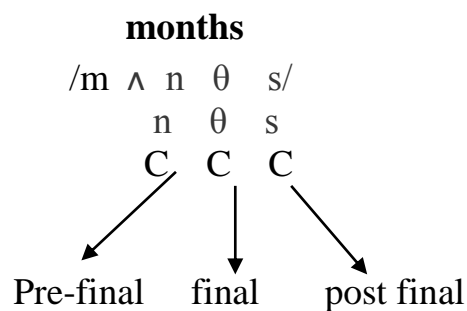
- a- **Coda with one C** e.g. **seat** /si:t/, the C is called final consonant.
- b- **Coda with two consonants CC**, first of them is called pre-final consonant and the second is called final, usually with /m/, /n/, /ŋ/, /l/ and /s/, e.g. **gold** /gold/, **seat** /si:t/. But with other than the above sounds, they will be final + post final e.g. **month** /mʌnθ/, **aks** /æks/. It is always with suffix /s/, /z/, /t/, /d/, and /θ/.

Example:



c- Coda with three consonants CCC:

1- Pre-final + final + post-final

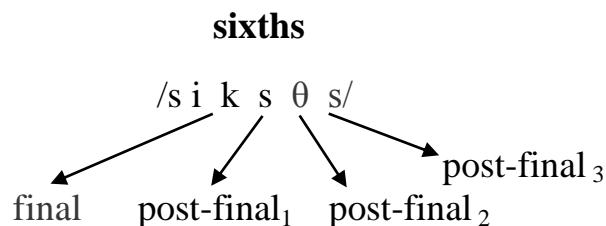


2- Final + post-final₁ + post-final₂

texts /tekst/, **fifths** /fifθs/, **fixed** /fikst/

d- Coda with four consonants CCCC

1. Pre-final + final + post-final₁ + post-final₂ e.g. **twelfths** /twelfθs/, **prompts** /prompts/.
2. Final + post-final₁ + post-final₂ + post-final₃ e.g. **sixths** /siksθs/



The sounds /m/, /n/, /ŋ/, /l/ and /s/ are always pre-final if they are found as first consonant in the coda.