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, so label the collocations with their number of syllables to check, making sure 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.

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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.

Say collocations from above and see if your partner can count the number of syllables without looking above. Then do the same with individual words from above and your own ideas. Then tap out a number of syllables and see if your partner can make a word or expression that matches that number of syllables.