

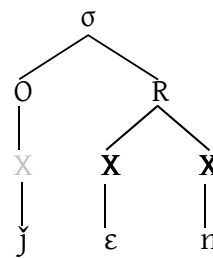
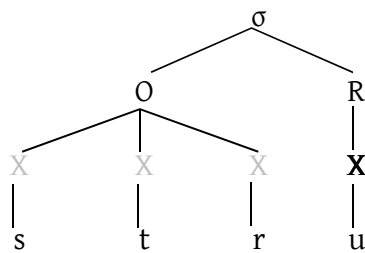
# Moras

Syllable quantity (weight) is relevant to stress and other phonological phenomena, as we have seen. It is based solely on the number of skeletal positions in the rime; positions in the onset are irrelevant. Note the following words in English; in particular, look at the penultimate syllable: is it stressed, does it have a complex onset, and does it have a complex rime.

hippopótamus  
ínstrument  
réprimand

incéntive  
agénda  
vióla

So there is a sense in which skeletal positions in the onset are less important than skeletal positions in the rime.



A skeletal position in the rime is called a **mora**. It has become customary to represent syllable structure by only showing the moras. This results in a simpler representation, and one that emphasizes the special role of skeletal positions in the rime. The Greek letter  $\mu$  is used to represent moras:

