

Nucleus + Coda

Two examples from English.

① The diphthong /aw/ can only occur in syllables in which the coda (if there is one) is [coronal].

② Possible stressed monosyllabic words:

[biy]	[biyt]
[bey]	[beyt]
[bay]	[bayt]
[baw]	[bawt]
[byuw]	[byuwt]
[buw]	[buwt]
[bow]	[bowt]
[bɔy]	[bɔyt]
[bɔ:]	[bɔ:t]
[ba:]	[ba:t]
*[bɪ]	[brɪt]
*[bɛ]	[brɛt]
*[bæ]	[bræt]
*[bʊ]	[brʊt]
*[bʌ]	[brʌt]
*[bɔ] (British)	[brɔt] (British)

If the nucleus is a short vowel, there must be a coda.

This is evidence that the nucleus and coda are grouped together in a constituent called the **rime**. A syllable in which there is more than one element in the rime (i.e. with a **branching rime**) is called a **heavy syllable**. A syllable that is not heavy is **light**. So the condition on English is that stressed monosyllabic words have to be heavy syllables.

