Answers to Exercises 4.7

1  Syllable structures

a. merchandise

b. instrumentation

c. nightingale
d. bowdlerize

2) Saturn and satire have different foot structures. Saturn is a single foot, while satire is two feet—/sæ-taɪ/. If we assume that flapping only occurs within a foot, and not across foot boundaries, we can explain the difference. There are other, alternative solutions that have been proposed, although both words are equally infrequent, so it’s unlikely that frequency can account for the difference.
3) *Twelfths* (assuming we pronounce all segments, which is likely only in very careful speech, we need all parts of the syllable (two onset consonants and two coda consonants), and we also need to call on the idea of an appendix for both the /θ/ and the /s/, which, you will note, are both morphemes in their own right.
Triumph is simpler, in that it doesn’t require an appendix, but the epenthetic [p] would cause a problem unless we assume it’s not a phoneme, and therefore not ‘officially’ part of the syllable. The idea of epenthesis is discussed in the next chapter.

Anapests is a trisyllabic foot, and has an appendix for the plural morpheme on the end.