Multisyllabic Words Word List



Long words break down when a child drops syllables, swaps their order, or loses the stress pattern. Practice by clapping or tapping one beat per syllable, saying the word slowly beat by beat, then speeding it back up to a natural rhythm.

TYPICAL AGE

Ongoing from 3 years

PRACTICE TIP

Backward chaining works beautifully here. For "spaghetti," start with "ghetti," then "pa-ghetti," then "spa-ghetti." Building from the end protects the ending, which is what usually gets dropped.

Multisyllabic word practice targets word shape rather than a single sound, so these lists are organized by syllable count instead of by position.

2 Syllables (30 words)

Start here. Watch for weak-syllable deletion ("nana" for "banana" is the 3-syllable version of this).



These and 22 more pictured words are in the Multisyllabic Words picture cards.

baby	rabbit	pizza	muffin	teacher
apple	window	doctor	napkin	turtle
cookie	kitchen	flower	panda	wagon
water	monkey	hammer	puppy	zipper
pencil	yellow	ladder	rainbow	garden
tiger	birthday	mitten	sandwich	soccer

3 Syllables (29 words)

The most common place for syllable deletion. Check the middle syllable especially.



These and 15 more pictured words are in the Multisyllabic Words picture cards.

banana	hamburger	pineapple	popsicle	volcano
elephant	bicycle	buffalo	kangaroo	wonderful
umbrella	butterfly	cucumber	raspberry	yesterday
dinosaur	telephone	family	strawberry	adventure
computer	potato	hospital	triangle	apartment
tomato	animal	piano	vitamin	

4 Syllables (25 words)

Now stress patterns start to matter as much as the syllables themselves.


alligator


watermelon


caterpillar


helicopter


television


macaroni


motorcycle


rhinoceros

These and 3 more pictured words are in the Multisyllabic Words picture cards.

alligator	television	kindergarten	supermarket	elevator
watermelon	macaroni	motorcycle	conversation	February
caterpillar	calculator	operator	avocado	experiment
helicopter	escalator	photographer	celebration	January
binoculars	invitation	rhinoceros	dictionary	ordinary

5 Syllables (7 words)

For older students working on clarity in conversation and academic vocabulary.

refrigerator	imagination	extraordinary	veterinarian
congratulations	curiosity	hippopotamus	

Generalization

Word lists get a sound into a child's mouth. Generalization is what gets it into their life. These are activities where the target words come up on their own, so nobody has to be talked into practicing.

Play-based ideas for young children

Clap the beats

Say a long word and clap once per syllable. Let them clap first, then say it. Use real words from their life - their own name, favorite foods, family members.

Words that come up: banana, elephant, umbrella, dinosaur, computer, tomato, hamburger, bicycle, butterfly, telephone, potato, pineapple

Animal parade

Line up animals with long names and march them past. Long names are more fun than short ones here.

Words that come up: alligator, elephant, kangaroo, rhinoceros, hippopotamus, caterpillar, dinosaur, flamingo, gorilla, buffalo

Grocery unpacking

Unpack real or pretend shopping, naming each item fully. Grocery items have great syllable variety.

Words that come up: banana, tomato, potato, spaghetti, macaroni, watermelon, pineapple, cucumber, avocado, raspberry

Conversation and verbal games for older kids

Category ladder

Name things in a category with more and more syllables. Start with one-syllable answers and climb.

Word of the day

Take one long academic word and use it five times in conversation.

Teach it back

Explain a school topic out loud. Academic vocabulary is where long words actually live.