



Weak Syllable Deletion Minimal Pairs



An unstressed syllable disappears from a longer word.

RESOLVES

By 4;0

PAIRS

15

SOUNDS

**Any unstressed syllable
in a multisyllabic word**

English words have strong beats and weak beats. "BaNAna" has its stress in the middle, which leaves two quiet syllables around it - and quiet syllables are the ones children drop. The syllable that disappears is almost always an unstressed one, and most often it comes right before the stressed beat.

Try this: Clap or tap one beat for every syllable while you say the word slowly, then have the child copy the beats before they copy the word. Building from the end also helps: "na," then "nana," then "banana" - each turn adds one syllable to the front, so the part they can already say stays put.

/n/ (2 pairs)

TARGET
banana

CHILD SAYS
> nana *

TARGET
dinosaur

CHILD SAYS
> dinsaur *

/l/ (4 pairs)

TARGET
elephant
telephone

CHILD SAYS
> efant *
> tephone *

TARGET
alligator
helicopter

CHILD SAYS
> gator
> hicopter *

/k/ (1 pairs)

TARGET
computer

CHILD SAYS
> puter *

TARGET

CHILD SAYS

/p/ (1 pairs)

TARGET
potato

CHILD SAYS
> tato *

TARGET

CHILD SAYS



 /t/ (3 pairs)

TARGET	CHILD SAYS
tomato	> mato *
butterfly	> buhfly *

TARGET	CHILD SAYS
watermelon	> watmelon *

 /m/ (1 pairs)

TARGET	CHILD SAYS
umbrella	> brella *

TARGET	CHILD SAYS
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 /sp/ (1 pairs)

TARGET	CHILD SAYS
spaghetti	> getti *

TARGET	CHILD SAYS
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 /r/ (2 pairs)

TARGET	CHILD SAYS
giraffe	> raffe *

TARGET	CHILD SAYS
refrigerator	> frigerator *

* not a real word - written the way a child would say it