

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. "BaNAAna" 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

CHILD SAYS

> efant *

telephone

> tephone *

TARGET

alligator

CHILD SAYS

> gator

helicopter

> 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

tomato

butterfly

CHILD SAYS

> mato *

> buhfly *

TARGET

watermelon

CHILD SAYS

> watmelon *

/m/ (1 pairs)

TARGET

umbrella

CHILD SAYS

> brella *

TARGET

CHILD SAYS

/sp/ (1 pairs)

TARGET

spaghetti

CHILD SAYS

> getti *

TARGET

CHILD SAYS

/r/ (2 pairs)

TARGET

giraffe

CHILD SAYS

> raffe *

TARGET

refrigerator

CHILD SAYS

> frigerator *

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