



*Literacy and Intervention*

## WORD LIST

# MEGAWORDS

2nd Edition

**Direct Instruction for Decoding, Spelling,  
and Understanding Multisyllabic Words**

Grades 4–12



## Megawords 3

<i>-al</i> = /əl/			<i>-ic</i> = /ik/		
accidental	funeral	oral	academic	comic	Pacific
actual	general	original	acrobatic	critic	panic
admiral	global	pedal	allergic	democratic	pathetic
animal	hospital	personal	anemic	ecstatic	patriotic
arrival	immortal	petal	angelic	elastic	phonetic
capital	internal	plural	antic	electric	picnic
cardinal	interval	real	apathetic	energetic	plastic
central	legal	removal	arctic	Eric	prolific
coastal	liberal	reversal	artistic	fantastic	public
coral	local	royal	athletic	frantic	sarcastic
criminal	loyal	several	Atlantic	garlic	skeptic
decimal	mental	signal	atomic	geographic	spastic
dental	metal	skeptical	automatic	gigantic	static
dismal	mineral	spinal	basic	heroic	statistic
eternal	moral	structural	catastrophic	ironic	systematic
external	mortal	terminal	Cedric	logic	tactic
fatal	national	tidal	ceramic	music	terrific
federal	natural	trial	characteristic	mystic	traffic
final	naval	universal	clinic		
fiscal	normal	vital			
formal	optional	vocal			

**-al**

In single-syllable words, the ending *-al* has a short-*a* sound and says /ă/. In multisyllabic words, the ending *-al* has a schwa sound and says /ə/.

**Example:** *final*

A **schwa** /ə/ is a vowel sound similar to the short-*u* sound in *up*. It is found only in unaccented syllables of multisyllabic words.

- ① Below are some final syllables of List 15 words. Read them aloud to practice saying /ə/.

nal	tal	cal
mal	dal	ral
val	sal	bal

**-ic**

In single-syllable words, the ending *-ic* has a short-*i* sound and says /ik/. In multisyllabic words, the ending *-ic* also has a short-*i* sound and says /ik/.

**Example:** *picnic*

- ② Below are some final syllables of List 15 words. Read them aloud to practice saying /ik/.

ic	mic	nic
lic	fic	ric
tic	sic	pic

- ③ Spell the List 15 ending that says /ə/. \_\_\_\_\_

- ④ Spell the List 15 ending that says /ik/. \_\_\_\_\_

**-al**

The unaccented ending *-al* has the schwa sound and says /əl/.

**Example:** *final*

1 Say the syllables to read the whole word. Then write the word.

- |         |       |             |       |
|---------|-------|-------------|-------|
| or al   | _____ | e ter nal   | _____ |
| ti dal  | _____ | ex ter nal  | _____ |
| dis mal | _____ | ar ri val   | _____ |
| na val  | _____ | per son al  | _____ |
| pet al  | _____ | skep ti cal | _____ |
| vi tal  | _____ | ad mir al   | _____ |
| plur al | _____ | gen er al   | _____ |

2 Match the syllables to make real words. Then say the words as you write them. Make two words for each group.

lo	sig	plas
mor → tal	fi nal	lo cal
vi ↘	le	fis
<i>mortal</i>	_____	_____
<i>vital</i>	_____	_____
re	tri	met
for mal	cho al	roy al
dis	mor	glo
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**-ic**

The unaccented ending *-ic* says /ɪk/. The accent is on the syllable just before the *-ic* ending.

**Example:** *picnic*

- ① Draw a box around the accented syllable. Say the syllables to read the whole word. Then write the word.

arc tic	_____ <i>arctic</i> _____	mys tic	_____
tac tic	_____	stat ic	_____
an tic	_____	ba sic	_____
ter rif ic	_____	cer am ic	_____
gi gan tic	_____	pro lif ic	_____
sar cas tic	_____	he ro ic	_____
an gel ic	_____	ath let ic	_____
ec stat ic	_____	i ron ic	_____

- ② In these words, the first syllable has the schwa sound /ə/, and the second syllable has the accent. Draw a box around the accented syllable. Say the syllables to read the whole word. Then write the word.

a tom ic	_____	a ne mic	_____
sta tis tic	_____	pa thet ic	_____
al ler gic	_____		

- ③ Draw a box around the accented syllable in these four-syllable words. Say the syllables to read the whole word. Then write the word.

en er get ic	_____	ac ro bat ic	_____
pa tri ot ic	_____	dem o crat ic	_____
ge o graph ic	_____	cat a stroph ic	_____
ap a thet ic	_____	sys tem at ic	_____

1 Your teacher will dictate twelve words. Spell the missing syllable(s), and then write the whole word.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ al \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. traf \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. mor \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_ al \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_ ner \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. e \_\_\_\_\_ tric \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. per \_\_\_\_\_ al \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. \_\_\_\_\_ rif \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. \_\_\_\_\_ pit \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. ge \_\_\_\_\_ graph \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. sys \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. cat \_\_\_\_\_ stroph \_\_\_\_\_

2 Fill in the missing ending *-al* or *-ic*. Then write the whole word.

- gi gan t \_\_\_\_\_ e lec tr \_\_\_\_\_
- in ter n \_\_\_\_\_ re ver s \_\_\_\_\_
- au to mat \_\_\_\_\_ min er \_\_\_\_\_
- ar tis t \_\_\_\_\_ ad mir \_\_\_\_\_
- crim in \_\_\_\_\_ pa thet \_\_\_\_\_
- ec stat \_\_\_\_\_ car din \_\_\_\_\_

3 **QUICK CHECK** Have another student test you on spelling these words.

My score: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ words correct