



Literacy and Intervention

WORD LIST

MEGAWORDS

2nd Edition

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

Grades 4–12



Megawords 7

<i>-i-</i> = /ə/			<i>-ity</i> = /ə tē/		<i>-ical</i> = /ɪ kəl/
accident	facilitate	original	ability	purity	chemical
acquisitive	Florida	participate	activity	quality	clerical
altitude	gratitude	pedicure	annuity	quantity	comical
American	helicopter	pessimist	authority	rapidity	critical
animal	hesitate	politics	capability	reality	economical
aptitude	hurricane	predicate	capacity	reliability	electrical
arbitrate	impediment	president	captivity	sanity	fanatical
article	inhabitant	principal	cavity	security	geographical
artifact	institute	principle	clarity	sensibility	grammatical
Baltimore	intelligent	prominent	dignity	severity	historical
candidate	intimate	ridicule	electricity	sincerity	identical
capital	investigate	sensitive	entity	stupidity	logical
captivate	latitude	sentiment	festivity	unity	mechanical
cardigan	longitude	significant	finality	university	medical
carnival	magnificent	similar	fragility	vanity	methodical
centipede	magnitude	solitude	humanity	varsity	musical
certificate	manicure	subsidy	humidity	vicinity	nautical
citizen	medicine	substitute	intensity		physical
comparison	meditate	testimony	majority		political
compliment	Mexican	unicorn	necessarily		practical
continent	monitor	uniform	necessity		radical
criminal	multitude	universe	objectivity		statistical
detriment	notify	venison	personality		surgical
difficult	officer	ventilate	popularity		technical
estimate	optimist	vertigo	possibility		theatrical
			publicity		typical
					vertical

Unaccented *i*

The letter *i* in an unaccented middle syllable usually has the schwa sound (/ə/).¹

In many List 34 words, a consonant or blend comes before the letter *i* to form a syllable. Although this syllable ends in *i*, it does not have a long vowel sound like most open syllables. The syllable is unaccented and the letter *i* has a schwa sound.

1 Read the syllables aloud to practice the schwa sound (/ə/).

ti	vi	ci
ni	ri	bi
di	pli	si
gi	fi	sti

In some List 34 words, the letter *i* is in an open syllable followed by the letters *cal*. In these words, the letter *i* has a short *i* (/i/) sound.

2 Read the syllables aloud to practice the short *i* sound (/i/).

i	ni
tri	ti

¹ The letter *i* has three main sounds in unaccented middle syllables. List 34 focuses on *i* pronounced /ə/ (*similar*), List 35 discusses *i* pronounced /ē/ (*radial*), and List 36 covers *i* pronounced /y/ (*million*).

1 Circle the syllables that contain unaccented *i*.

ar bi trate	cap i tal	pol i tics
an i mal	pred i cate	mon i tor
det ri ment	mul ti tude	sol i tude
u ni form	op ti mist	sub sti tute
ap ti tude	sen si tive	u ni corn
ven i son	ar ti fact	pres i dent
ac ci dent	prom i nent	

Where is the syllable that contains *i*? _____

The suffix *-ity* is pronounced /ə tē/. The letter *i* has a schwa sound in this suffix.
The ending *-ical*, pronounced /ĩ kəl/, contains the suffixes *-ic* and *-al*. The letter *i* has its short sound in this ending.

2 Circle the *-ity* or *-ical* in each word. Then pronounce the suffixes.

clarity	political	humidity
geographical	necessity	technical
majority	vicinity	mechanical
possibility	physical	chemical
activity	intensity	nautical

Review

The letter *i* in an unaccented middle syllable usually says /_____/.

Two common endings in which *i* says /ə/ or /ĩ/ are _____ and _____.

Review

Unaccented *i* is often found in the middle syllable of multisyllabic words. It most often has a _____ sound but sometimes has a short-_____ sound.

① Your teacher will dictate some syllables with *i* pronounced /ə/. Say the syllable as you write it.

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

② Answer the questions about List 34 words.

- How do you spell the ending pattern pronounced /ə tē/? _____
- How do you spell the ending pattern pronounced /ī kəl/? _____

③ Circle and write the middle syllable with unaccented *i*.

article	_____	uniform	_____
compliment	_____	arbitrate	_____
subsidy	_____	principle	_____
officer	_____	hurricane	_____
substitute	_____	cardigan	_____
universe	_____	sensitive	_____
vertical	_____	medical	_____
solitude	_____	Florida	_____
capital	_____	dignity	_____
hesitate	_____	accident	_____

The letter *i* is not the only vowel that has the schwa sound. Any unaccented vowel can have it. Review *Megawords 3*, List 17, in which *a*, *e*, *o*, and *u* all have the schwa sound. When you write, spell the word with another vowel if one does not look right.

1 Circle the unaccented middle syllable in each word. Then write the words under the correct column.

sub sti tute	rel a tive	dif fi cult	per ma nent
cus to mer	el e phant	por cu pine	reg u lar
of fi cer	com pro mise	ben e fit	sep a rate
en e my			

a says /ə/

e says /ə/

i says /ə/

o says /ə/

u says /ə/
