

MEGAWORDS 5

2nd Edition

Decoding, Spelling, and Understanding
Multisyllabic Words

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5 VOWEL VARIATIONS

 School Specialty

SAMPLE

<i>ai, ay = /ā/</i>	<i>au = /aw/</i>	<i>augh, aw = /aw/</i>	<i>al, all = /all/</i>	<i>al = /äl/</i>
acquaint	applause	awesome	almanac	Alabama
afraid	astronaut	awful	already	Albert
ailment	auction	awkward	alter	album
appraise	audible	awning	alternate	alcove
attain	audience	coleslaw	although	Alexander
betray	auditorium	daughter	always	Alfred
campaign	auditory	dawdle	asphalt	Alice
complain	augment	distraught	enthrall	Allen
crayon	August	haughty	recall	allergy
daisy	austere	naughty	wallet	alley
delay	Australia	outlaw	walnut	alligator
detail	authentic	rawhide	walrus	allocate
detain	author	sawdust	Walter	alphabet
display	authorize	strawberry		altitude
entertain	autobiography	unlawful		halibut
essay	autograph	withdraw		malpractice
maintain	automatic			
mayor	automobile			
mis laid	autumn			
obtain	auxiliary			
proclaim	because			
relay	caucus			
remainder	cauliflower			
restrain	caustic			
retain	caution			
subway	gaudy			
sustain	laundry			
terrain	nautical			
traitor	saucer			
waitress	sausage			
	somersault			

Vowel Combinations with a

Six vowel combinations start with *a*. Some of the combinations make more than one sound. Some of the sounds are spelled by more than one combination.

ai says /ā/ as in *rain*

ay says /ā/ as in *stay*

au says /aw/ as in *pause*

augh says /aw/ as in *taught*

aw says /aw/ as in *claw*

al says /all/ and /ăl/ as in *call* and *pal*

1 Read these words aloud. Practice saying the correct vowel combination with *a*.

***ai* says /ā/**

paint

train

claim

jail

paid

***ay* says /ā/**

stay

play

way

tray

gray

***au* says /aw/**

fault

cause

haul

gauze

haunt

***augh* says /aw/**

caught

taught

naught

fraught

aught

***aw* says /aw/**

lawn

jaw

flaw

crawl

yawn

***al* or *all* says /all/ or /ăl/**

small

tall

hall

gal

shall

2 Spell the six vowel combinations with *a*.

Use the chart to study the different sounds vowel combinations with *a* can make.

		Sounds			
		/ā/	/aw/	/all/	/ă/
Vowel Combinations	ai	detail			
	ay	crayon			
	au		laundry		
	aw		awful		
	augh		daughter		
	al			walnut	alphabet

① Circle the vowel combinations with *a* that say /ā/.

remainder obtain display relay
 proclaim detail terrain betray
 complain delay subway mayor

Two ways to spell /ā/ are _____ and _____.

② Circle the vowel combinations with *a* that say /aw/.

daughter rawhide withdraw saucer
 autobiography somersault strawberry haughty
 naughty author distraught because

Three ways to spell /aw/ are _____, _____, and _____.

1 Say each syllable, and then read the whole word. Underline the vowel combination with *a* in the whole word.

ai = /ā/

com plain	complain
re strain	restrain
mis laid	mis laid
ob tain	obtain
en ter tain	entertain
re main der	remainder
at tain	attain
ap praise	appraise

al = /ăl/

Al len	Allen
al ler gy	allergy
al pha bet	alphabet
al lo cate	allocate
al ti tude	altitude
al li ga tor	alligator

au and aw = /aw/

daw dle	dawdle
out law	outlaw
straw ber ry	strawberry
aug ment	augment
aus tere	austere
nau ti cal	nautical
caul i flow er	cauliflower
au to mo bile	automobile
au then tic	authentic

ay = /ā/

may or	mayor
cray on	crayon
be tray	betray
de lay	delay
sub way	subway

al = /all/

al though	although
al read y	already
al ma nac	almanac
al ter nate	alternate

1 Match the syllables to make real words. Say each word aloud as you write it.

mis	tain	_____	<i>mis</i>	laid	_____	pro	strain	_____
trai	laid	_____			_____	re	claim	_____
main	tor	_____			_____	ter	tain	_____
ail	fraid	_____			_____	sus	rain	_____
a	ment	_____			_____	cam	paign	_____
awk	ing	_____			_____	as	thrall	_____
daw	slaw	_____			_____	wal	call	_____
sau	ward	_____			_____	al	rus	_____
awn	sage	_____			_____	re	ways	_____
cole	dle	_____			_____	en	phalt	_____

2 Unscramble the syllables to make real words.

ti	cal	nau	_____
then	au	tic	_____
der	re	main	_____
nac	ma	al	_____
er	sault	som	_____
tice	mal	prac	_____
tude	al	ti	_____
ter	en	tain	_____
ler	al	gy	_____

1 Your teacher will dictate twenty-one words. Spell the missing syllable, using the hints at the left. Then say the whole word as you write it.

/ā/—spelled ai **1.** _____ ment _____

2. a _____ _____

3. re _____ der _____

/ā/—spelled ay **4.** _____ or _____

5. de _____ _____

6. _____ on _____

/äl/—spelled al **7.** _____ li ga tor _____

8. _____ i but _____

9. _____ pha bet _____

/all/—spelled al **10.** _____ nut _____

11. _____ ter nate _____

12. _____ ma nac _____

/aw/—spelled au **13.** be _____ _____

14. _____ dry _____

15. _____ then tic _____

/aw/—spelled aw **16.** _____ hide _____

17. out _____ _____

18. un _____ ful _____

/aw/—spelled augh **19.** _____ ter _____

20. _____ ty _____

21. _____ ty _____

Review

VC/CV When two or more consonants stand between two vowels, divide between the consonants so that blends and digraphs stay together.

/Cle Divide right before the Consonant-*le*.

VV/ When a vowel combination appears at the end of a syllable, divide right after the vowel combination.

Compound Words Divide between the two words.

Prefix/Root/Suffix Divide between the prefix, root, and suffix (or ending).

- ① Divide these words into syllables using the VC/CV rule. Draw a box around the accented syllable.

laundry campaign essay

- ② Divide these words into syllables using the /Cle rule. Draw a box around the accented syllable.

dawdle audible

- ③ Divide these words into syllables using the VV/ rule. Draw a box around the accented syllable.

haughty altitude awful
mayor crayon alley

- ④ Divide these words into syllables using the compound words rule. Draw a box around the accented syllable.

withdraw sawdust rawhide

- ⑤ Divide these words into syllables using the prefix/root/suffix rule. Draw a box around the accented syllable.

recall detain unlawful

al

The vowel combination *al* has two different sounds.

al can say /all/ as in *always*.

al can say /äl/ as in *allergy*.

If you read an *al* word you do not know, sound it out, first with *al* saying /äl/.

If that does not make a recognizable word, try saying /all/ instead.

1 Divide these words into syllables. Then write them under the correct headings.

- | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|
| al ter | although | alcove | album | Alfred |
| alphabet | alligator | Albert | always | altitude |
| allergy | Alice | allocate | alley | already |
| Allen | alternate | Alexander | Alabama | almanac |

al* says /all/ as in *almanac

al* says /äl/ as in *alligator

alter		
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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

My score: ____ / ____ words correct

au = /aw/

When /aw/ is at the beginning of a word, it is usually spelled *au*.

- ① Fill in the missing *au*, and then write the whole word.

_____ction	_____	_____gust	_____
_____tumn	_____	_____thor	_____
_____stere	_____	_____gment	_____
_____stralia	_____	_____xiliary	_____
_____thentic	_____	_____thorize	_____

aw = /aw/

Sometimes /aw/ is spelled *aw* at the beginning of a word.

- ② Fill in the missing *aw*, and then write the whole word.

_____ful	_____	_____kward	_____
_____ning	_____	_____esome	_____

augh = /aw/

In some words, /aw/ is spelled *augh*.

- ③ Fill in the missing *augh*, and then write the whole word.

d_____ter	_____	distr_____t	_____
n_____ty	_____	h_____ty	_____

- ④ **EXCEPTION** In the word *laughter*, *augh* says /ăf/ instead of /aw/. Fill in the blanks to practice spelling this exception.

laughter	l_____ter	laugh_____
_____augh_____	_____ter	_____

/aw/

The vowel combinations *au* and *aw* both say /aw/.

- If /aw/ is in the middle or at the beginning of a syllable, it is usually spelled *au*, as in *laun dry*. You will hear a consonant after /aw/.
- If /aw/ is at the end of a syllable, it is usually spelled *aw*, as in *aw ful* and *out law*.

1 Your teacher will dictate nine words with /aw/. Repeat each syllable, and write the word under the correct heading.

au

aw

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

/ā/

The vowel combinations *ai* and *ay* both make the /ā/ sound.

- If the /ā/ sound is in the middle or at the beginning of a syllable, it is usually spelled *ai*, as in *maid en*. You will hear a consonant after /ā/.
- If the /ā/ sound is at the end of a syllable, it is usually spelled *ay*, as in *de lay*.

2 Your teacher will dictate nine words with the /ā/ sound. Repeat each syllable, and write the word under the correct heading.

ai

ay

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

5 Review

Two vowel combinations that say /ā/ are _____ and _____.

Three vowel combinations that say /aw/ are _____, _____, and _____.

_____ can say /all/ as in *almanac* or /ăl/ as in *alligator*.

Some words with *ai* contain the Latin root *tain*, meaning "hold."

1 Read the definitions. Choose the correct word from the box, and write it on the line.

maintain attain detain entertain retain obtain

to hold back; to take into custody _____

to keep in a state of good repair _____

to get something _____

to achieve a goal; to accomplish _____

to keep in possession; to hold onto _____

to amuse; to give attention to _____

Some words have a suffix after the root *tain*, as in *entertainment* or *obtainable*. In some cases, *tain* changes to *ten* when the suffix is added.

2 Read these words aloud. Circle the syllable *tain* or *ten* in each word.

retain → retention

detain → detention

maintain → maintenance

sustain → sustenance

Some words with *au* contain the Greek prefix *auto-*, meaning "self."

1 Read the definitions. Choose the correct word from the box, and write it on the line.

automobile autobiography automatic autograph

- a person's signature _____
- moving or acting by itself _____
- a motorcar _____
- the story of a person's life written by that person _____

Some words with *au* contain the Latin root *audio*, meaning "hearing."

2 Read the definitions. Choose the correct word from the box, and write it on the line.

audible auditory auditorium audience

- loud enough to be heard _____
- people gathered to see and hear a show _____
- having to do with hearing _____
- a large room where people gather to see and hear shows _____

1 Fill in the blanks with words from the box.

authorize obtain applause gaudy alternate
dawdle almanac display mayor caution

- Alison will have to _____ a fishing license to fish here.
- The _____ talked to his advisers about the state of the city.
- If you _____ in the morning, you might be late to work.
- There was tremendous _____ after Act I.
- The detour forced Mr. Austin to take an _____ route.
- The museum has many beautiful artworks on _____.
- The jeweled necklace was too _____ for my taste.
- My sports _____ lists all major sporting events from last year.
- Proceed with _____ through this dangerous intersection.
- The doctor will _____ this prescription for your medicine.

2 Fill in the missing vowel combinations.

		Sounds			
		/ā/	/aw/	/all/	/äl/
Vowel Combinations	__ __	afraid			
	__ __	essay			
	__ __		applause		
	__ __		sawdust		
	__ __ __ __		haughty		
	__ __			alter	album

1 Read the definitions. Choose the correct word from the box, and write it on the line.

augment	detain	altitude	nautical	asphalt
authentic	crayon	audible	austere	acquaint
proclaim	caustic	caucus		

having to do with ships, sailors, or sailing _____

able to be heard _____

genuine; real; not fake _____

to make greater or stronger _____

a tar-like substance used in pavement _____

a stick of colored wax used for drawing _____

to keep back, delay, or keep from going away _____

height above the ground _____

to declare publicly; to make known officially _____

to make familiar _____

stern or strict in manner or appearance _____

able to burn or eat away chemically _____

a meeting of political party members _____

**Proofreading Practice**

Two of the List 27 words are misspelled in each sentence. Rewrite the whole sentence, and spell the words correctly.

1. Allen hated doing the lawndry because he found it boring.

2. Walter prepared a wallnut strauberry tart for dessert.

3. The awdience saved the most applause for the astronaut and the maior.

4. The Farmer's Allmanac predicts that we will have awful weather in Awgust.

5. Subwae construction was already behind schedule when the delai occurred.

6. The auther wrote an autobiography about his time on the campaygn trail.

7. Proceed with caution through this dangerous high-alltitude terrayne.

8. Alice is distrawt over her daughter's nauhty behavior.

- 1 Read the sentences and circle all the List 27 words.
 1. Alice's income is augmented by her side business selling strawberries.
 2. Ms. Alexander, our mayor, addressed the crowd with some words of caution.
 3. Albert bought an automobile at the auction.
 4. Allen's allergy to smoke made him distraught.
 6. Sue complained about the coleslaw but loved the cauliflower.
 7. We will have to allocate more funds because we need more asphalt for a new road.
 8. Walter was the author of a well-known almanac.
 9. The audience gave the campaign speaker a round of applause.
 10. I cooked the sausage while Alfred entertained the guests.
 11. The awful traitor was detained last August.
- 2 Your teacher will dictate three of the sentences above. Write them on a blank piece of paper.
- 3 Write a short story or descriptive paragraph using ten words from List 27. Be creative!

✓ Reading & Spelling Skill Check

Demonstrate your accuracy in reading and spelling List 27 words. Your teacher will select ten words to read and ten words to spell. Record your scores on the Accuracy Checklist. Work toward 90–100 percent accuracy.

🕒 Word Proficiency

Now build up your reading proficiency with List 27 words. Decide on your rate goal with your teacher. Record your progress on the Word Proficiency Graph.

My goal for reading List 27 is _____ words per minute with two or fewer errors.

- 1 Practice the words, read the passage, and then answer the questions.

List 27 Words			Review Words		Passage Words
subway	relayed	unlawful	traffic	above	city
terrain	authorize	maintained	tunnel	secret	system
delays	alternate		people		trolley
Alfred	always				corrupt

The Secret Subway of New York

In 1869, the New York City terrain was a mess of cars and traffic delays. But Alfred Beach had a plan: an underground tunnel filled with trains that relayed people back and forth. His plan would become the city's first subway system.

The city bosses would not authorize Beach to start his subway. They had plans for a trolley system above the streets. This alternate plan would make the crooked city leaders rich.

Beach was not one to heed corrupt leaders. His crew dug a 300-foot tunnel, always at night. They worked in secret for a year, and in 1870, the new subway opened. It was a huge hit!

The city bosses shut the unlawful subway down, and as time went by, no one maintained it. It was lost until 1912, when workers on a new subway dug up the old tunnel. Beach was long dead, but his secret subway made him a legend.

- Which word from the text means "kept in good condition"? _____
- Why did the city bosses *not* want Beach to build his subway? _____

- What did the city bosses do when Beach opened his subway? _____

- 2 **FLUENCY** Record your progress on the Fluency Graph.

My goal for reading the passage is _____ words per minute with two or fewer errors.