

Lesson 4

[ɛ] as in *egg, pet, and head*

PRONOUNCING [ɛ]



[ɛ]

Lips: Slightly spread and unrounded

Jaw: Open wider than for [eɪ]

Tongue: High, near the roof of the mouth

Possible Pronunciation Problems

Pronunciation problems occur because of confusing English spelling patterns and the similarity between [ɛ] and other sounds.

EXAMPLES If you say [eɪ] instead of [ɛ]: **pen** will sound like **pain**.

If you say [æ] instead of [ɛ]: **met** will sound like **mat**.

When pronouncing [ɛ], open your mouth wider than for [eɪ] but not as wide as for [æ] (the sound to be discussed in the next lesson).

Practice and reduce your errors on [ɛ]!

Practice

EXERCISE A



Listen and repeat.

[ɛ] At the Beginning of Words

any	edge	effort
end	else	error
egg	every	elephant

[ɛ] In the Middle of Words

bed	rest	bread
next	bent	fence
west	many	present

The vowel [ɛ] does not occur at the end of words in English.

[ɛ] Spelled

e	ea
yes	head
red	lead
sell	dead
seven	meant
never	measure