

Lesson 6

[a] as in *arm, hot, and father*

PRONOUNCING [a]



[a]

Lips: Completely apart in a "yawning" position

Jaw: Lower than for any other vowel

Tongue: Flat, on the floor of the mouth

Possible Pronunciation Problems

Irregular English spelling patterns are the main reason you may have pronunciation problems with the vowel [a]. The letter *o* in English is frequently pronounced [a], like the *a* in *father*.

EXAMPLES If you say [ou] instead of [a]: **not** will sound like **note**.

If you say [ʌ] instead of [a]: **not** will sound like **nut**.

If you say [ɔ] instead of [a]: **cot** will sound like **caught**.

Remember to open your mouth wider than for any other vowel when you pronounce [a].

We're positive you'll soon be **on top of [a]!**

Practice

EXERCISE A



Listen and repeat.

[a] At the Beginning of Words

on	are	honest
odd	arch	option
arm	oxen	artist

[a] In the Middle of Words

top	shop	block
cot	wasp	March
lock	watch	rocket

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

[a] Spelled

<i>a</i>	<i>o</i>
want	fox
wallet	hot
dark	spot
father	opera
pardon	follow