

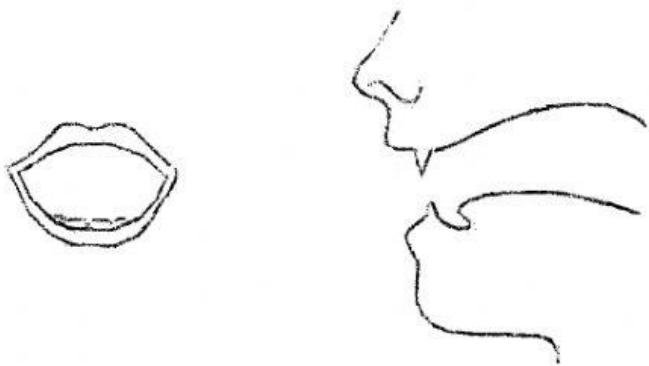
PRONUNCIATION

/ æ / and / ə /

LEVEL: B1

/ æ /

Pronunciation: This is a short sound. To make this sound, open your mouth wide and lower your tongue.



Watch this video:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/pronunciation/shortvowel7>

Some words that are pronounced with /a:/ in British English are pronounced with /æ/ in American English (and other accents in England). For example: ask, dance, bath, fast, answer.

1. Listen and say the sound / æ /.

2. Usual spelling. Listen and repeat.

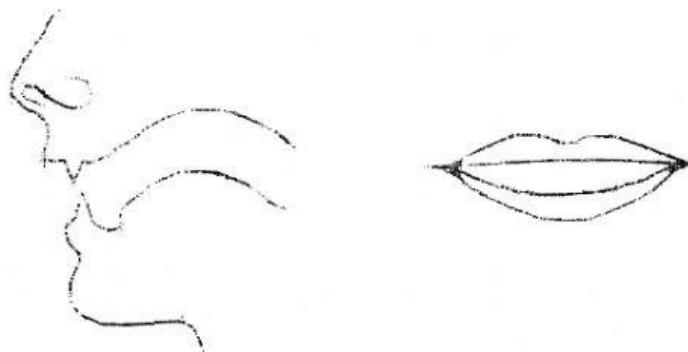
a: black, bag, carry, catch, flat, hat, ham, jam, Japan, manager, match, plan, ran, thanks, that, traffic, travel...

3. Listen and say these sentences.

1. I plan to travel to Japan.
2. I ran to the flat.
3. Thanks for the ham and jam.
4. Carry that black bag to the manager.

/ ə /

Pronunciation: This is a short sound. It is pronounced with relaxed tongue and lips. It's the most common sound in English. It even has a name, schwa. One of the reasons why it is so common is that in words with two or more syllables, at least one syllable is weak (or unstressed), and in weak syllables the sounds /ə/ and /ɪ/ are often used. Another reason is that it is used in 3 of the English diphthongs and in all triphthongs.



Watch this video:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/pronunciation/shortvowel5>

1. Listen and say the sound / ə /.

2. Usual spellings. Listen and repeat.

a/ai/ ar: ago, banana, umbrella, sofa, woman; certain, mountain; sugar

e/er: cinema, garden; paper, sister, teacher, wonderful

i/ ia/ io: family, reality; essential, special; condition, tuition

o/or: correct, second; actor, doctor

u/ure: support, wonderful; figure, treasure

ou/our: famous, nervous; colour

3. Listen and say these sentences.

1. Family is a treasure.
2. I went to the cinema with my sister.
3. A famous actor was second.
4. Her teacher's tuition was wonderful.