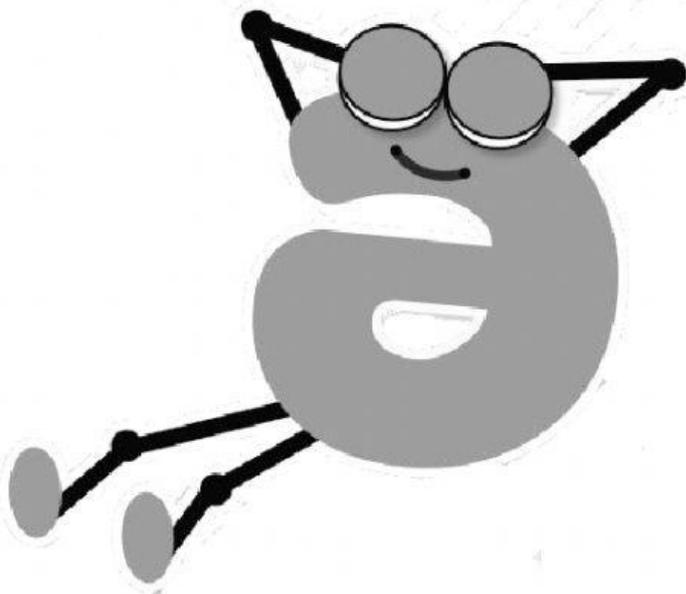


PRONUNCIATION

Schwa - The Lazy Sound

The /ə/ schwa sound is the most common vowel sound in the English language.

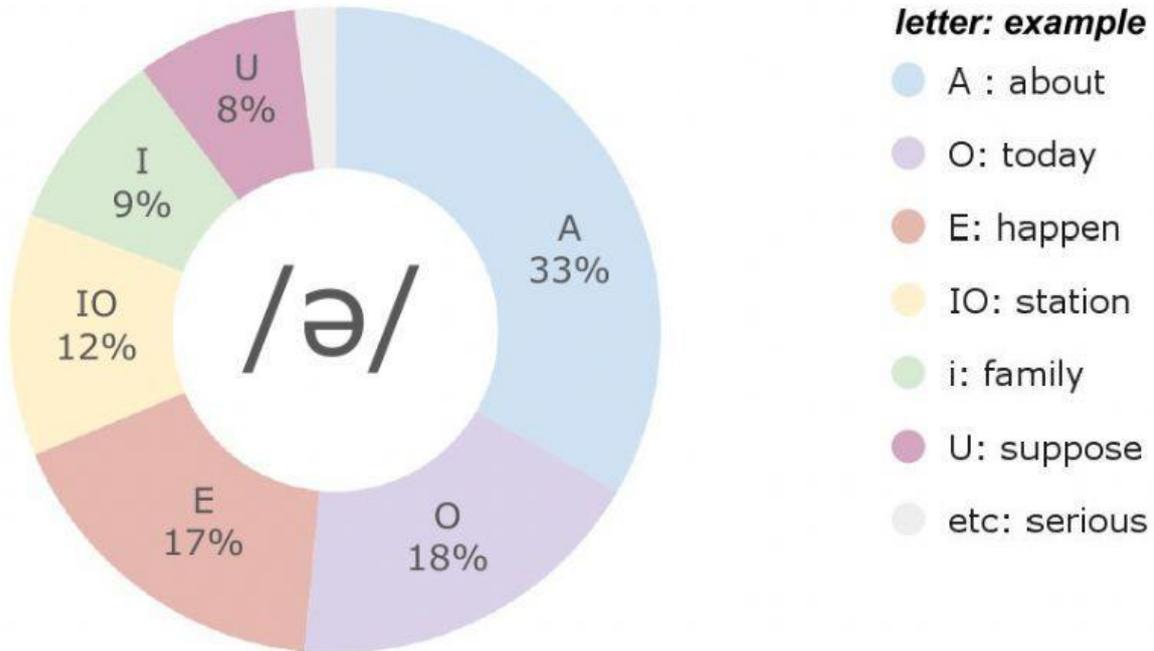


*Be a schwa,
never stressed.*

Vowel letters are typically pronounced as /ə/ in unstressed (weak) syllables.

LIS-TEN
/ 'lɪs ən /

Any vowel letter can be pronounced as /ə/ schwa, most of the times being the letter A.



Accents can affect how a word is pronounced. For example the /er/ ending pronounced in an British accent will sound like a /ə/ schwa.

SIS-TER
/ 'sɪs tə /

There are some words that have 2 meanings, depending on which syllable is stressed. In these words, it's easier to hear the difference, e.g. record (verb vs adjective).

verb:

RE-CORD

vs

adjective:

REC-ORD

/ rɪ 'kɔrd /

/ 'rɛk ərd /

Click on the syllables which contain /ə/ schwa.

ABOUT

FAMILY

AGO

EVEN

OPEN

SUPPOSE

HAPPEN

TOGETHER

POLICE

AGAIN

IDEA

PERSON

AWAY

PROBLEM

MOMENT

AROUND

TOMORROW

REASON

TODAY

TONIGHT

AFRAID

ANOTHER

SECOND

AGAINST

WOMAN

ALONE

HUSBAND