

MODULE 3: DESARROLLO DE DESTREZAS DE LA PRONUNCIACIÓN EN INGLÉS

Vowel sound /ə/ (schwa) as in "ago"



What Is a Schwa?

a vowel sound like "uh"

I'm a schwa.



I can be any vowel, y, or even no letter.

a	salad
e	elephant
i	cousin
o	lemon
u	upon
y	syringe
	rhythm



The reduced vowel sound called schwa is one of the most common vowels sounds in spoken English. The schwa vowel [ə] is a very short, quick sound. Your lips should be completely relaxed and barely move during its production.

WATCH VIDEO
Click the "Play" Button

<https://sandiegovoiceandaccent.com/american-english-vowels/introduction-to-the-schwa-uh-%C9%99-vowel>

Other spelling patterns for [ə] consist of the letters **eo**, **ou**, **iou**, **io** and **ai**.

Pigeon **famous** **delicious** **nation** **certain**

The **schwa** [ə] can occur more than once and can be represented by different

letters in the same word. For example:

President **accident** **elephant**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BmkUa4Mv60>

https://soundsamerican.net/article/vowel_sound_schwa_as_in_ago

[ə] At the Beginning of Words

ago	upon
away	contain
along	asleep
amaze	suppose

[ə] In the Middle of Words

agony	relative
holiday	seventy
company	telephone
buffalo	photograph

[ə] At the End of Words

soda	famous
sofa	lemon
zebra	cousin
reason	circus

[ə] Spelled

a	e	i	o	u
arrive	oven	liquid	occur	upon
ashamed	open	humid	obtain	suppose
asleep	cement	capital	lemon	circus
away	jacket	typical	lesson	column
signal	belief	cousin	contain	support



INSTRUCTIONS

Listen and practice words with the sound the [ə].

Vocabulary

1 The sound /ə/ is used in many unstressed syllables and words. In the words below, the spelling has been changed to show you when to use the sound /ə/. Stressed syllables are in bold. Listen and repeat.



chickən



təmatəʊs



lettəʃ



ə bənənə



ən ɒnən



səme ʃɒkəleɪ*



ə ˈkwestən



ə wʊmən



wʊmən

* A slash through a letter means it is not pronounced.

INSTRUCTIONS

Listen and practice words with the sound the [ə].

International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) Symbol



Practice Words

ago / ə'gəʊ /	above / ə'bʌv /	again / ə'geɪn /	person / 'pɜːsən /
action / 'ækʃən /	ability / ə'bɪlɪti /	abrupt / ə'brʌpt /	sofa / 'səʊfə /
abyss / ə'bɪs /	accurate / 'ækjʊrət /	parent / 'peərənt /	across / ə'krɒs /

INSTRUCTIONS

Practice pronunciation of the [ə] **sound** with the top 30 most common words.



- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. the | 11. woman | 21. ago |
| 2. about | 12. family | 22. suppose |
| 3. even | 13. open | 23. police |
| 4. happen | 14. together | 24. person |
| 5. again | 15. idea | 25. moment |
| 6. away | 16. problem | 26. reason |
| 7. around | 17. tomorrow | 27. afraid |
| 8. listen | 18. tonight | 28. against |
| 9. today | 19. second | 29. husband |
| 10. another | 20. alone | 30. children |



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8QcDHExsNs>

Schwa Words List

a

adapt
ago
alarm
alone
alphabet
amount
atlas
balloon
banana
comma
formal
human
idea
magazine
pleasant
thousand
zebra

e

algebra
blanket
camel
calendar
celebrate
children
effective
elephant
enemy
event
item
present
problem
silent
system
telephone
the

i

accident
animal
cousin
decimal
difficult
easily
festival
medical
pencil
president
promise

o

astronaut
bottom
brother
cannon
carrot
command
confess
dinosaur
freedom
harmony
lemon
occur
offend
parrot
phantom
reason
ribbon

u

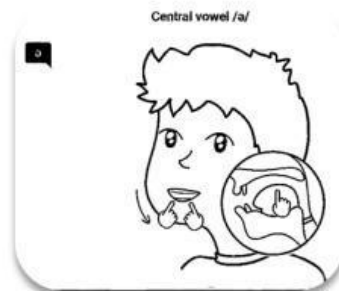
album
campus
faculty
focus
suggest
supply
support
voluntary
upon

y

analysis
catalyst
syringe

Pennsylvania
vinyl

Central vowel /ə/



1. How are you today?
2. See you tonight.
3. See you tomorrow.
4. Don't coplain.
5. I suppose so.
6. I suppose it's possible.
7. Consider my coplaint.
8. Complete today's lesson.
9. Don't coplain about the problem.
0. My cousin will arrive at seven.





<https://thriveedservices.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Schwa-Words-list-791x1024.jpg>

INSTRUCTIONS

Practice the pronunciation of the following sentences with the sound the [ə].

Word Bank for -TION

- Question
- Action
- Education
- Construction
- Action
- Attention
- Solution
- Addiction
- Location
- Mention
- Celebration



Word Bank for -SION

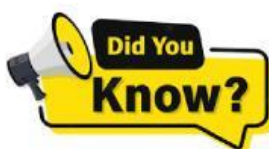
- Profession
- Impression
- Permission
- Depression
- Confession
- Possession
- Discussion
- Transmission

Word Bank for -ious

- delicious
- religious.
- conscious.
- ambitious.
- delicious.
- notorious.
- malicious.
- luxurious.
- ingenious.

Word Bank for -ous

- Famous
- Dangerous
- Courageous
- Cautious
- Jealous
- Poisonous
- Anxious



Can / Can't

LIVEWORKSHEETS

can and can't

- Can is usually unstressed and has a weak pronunciation when another word follows it in a sentence. The vowel sound is reduced to /ə/.
- Can has a strong pronunciation when it is at the end of a sentence. It has the clear vowel sound /æ/.
- Can't always has a strong pronunciation. It has the clear vowel sound /æ/.

The difference in vowel sounds can help you hear the difference between *can* and *can't*.



CAN - CANNOT

USES OF CAN Simple Present Tense

1. ability or possibility
- I can swim.

2. permission
- You can use my pen.

CAN + VERB* *Base form of the infinitive

He can speak English. ✓

He can speak~~s~~ English. ✗ No S

He can~~t~~ speak English. ✗ No TO

	AFFIRMATIVE			NEGATIVE		
SINGULAR	I	can	speak English.	I	can't	speak French.
	You	can	ride a bike.	You	can't	ride a horse.
	He	can	drive a car.	He	can't	drive a truck.
	She	can	play the guitar.	She	can't	play the piano.
	It	can	swim.	It	can't	fly.
PLURAL	We	can	play football.	We	can't	play tennis.
	You	can	see the stars.	You	can't	see germs.
	They	can	dance.	They	can't	sing.

QUESTIONS

+ Affirmative They **can** speak Spanish.

? Question **Can** they speak Spanish?

Short Answer Yes, they can. / No, they can't.

CONTRACTION

can't = cannot

He **can't** sing.
= He **cannot** sing.

www.grammar.cl www.woodwardenglish.com www.vocabulary.cl

1 Listen and repeat.



She cən ride ə bike.



She cən play thə guɪtər.



She cən sail ə boat.



She cən't drive ə car.



She cən't play thə piano.



She cən't swim.

2 Listen and repeat.

A Cən she ride ə bike?

B Yes, she can.

A Cən she drive ə car?

B No, she cən't.

Discussion

- 1 Practice in a group of three to five people. List things you can and can't do.

Example: I can ride a bike.

I can't ride a horse.



Use the examples in task C, the ideas below, or your own ideas.

ride a bike

drive a car

play the piano

swim

do a handstand

bake a cake

ride a horse

drive a truck

play the guitar

sail a boat

do karate

speak three languages

I can
ski



I can't
ski



- 2 Tell the class what all of you, some of you, and none of you can do.

Example: A All of us can swim.

B Two of us can play the piano.

C One of us can ride a horse.

A None of us can do a handstand.



Listening SECTION

INSTRUCTION

Listen to each sentence and choose the word you hear.

1. He **can** **can't** play the piano.

2. I **can** **can't** stand on my head.

3. She **can** **can't** ride a horse.

4. She **can** **can't** speak Japanese, but her children **can** **can't**

5. You **can** **can't** park your car here.

6. I **can** **can't** meet you at three o'clock.





CAN

DISCUSSION

Student 'A'

- Discuss the questions below with your partner.

1. What languages **can** you speak?
2. What **can't** you do that most people **can** do?
3. What songs **can** you sing?
4. Where in your town or city **can** you eat great restaurant food?
5. What **can** you do to improve your English?
6. Which student(s) in your class **can** tell funny jokes?
7. What six animals **can** eat you? For example: sharks, bears, ... (think of six more)
8. **Can** you remember what you dreamed about last night?
9. Why **can't** chickens fly?
10. In how many languages **can** you say, "Hello"?



CAN

DISCUSSION

Student 'B'

- Discuss the questions below with your partner.

1. What **can** you do that most people **can't** do?
2. What **can** you do to make yourself feel happy?
3. What kinds of food **can** you cook?
4. At what age **can** people drive in your country?
5. What is another thing you **can** do to improve your English?
6. What six things **can** fly? For example: birds, airplanes, ... (think of six more)
7. What six animals **can't** eat you? For example: rabbits, ... (think of six more)
8. **Can** you make a sound like a bird or an animal?
9. What **can** you remember about your last English class?
10. In how many languages **can** you say, "Thank you"?

