

OPEN AND MID VOWEL SOUNDS

PRACTICE

Section 1. Pronunciation. Pronounce the following words based on the phonetic transcription.

ɜː	ɔː	ə	e
/gɜːrl/	/ˈerpɔːrt/	/əˈbrɔːd/	/ˈædres/
/ɜːrn/	/ɔːlˈðəʊ/	/əˈveɪləbl/	/esˈθetɪk/
/ˈfaɪərweɜːrk/	/ˌɔːdɪˈtɔːrɪəm/	/ˌkæfəˈtɪriəl/	/ˈbestʃəl/
/ˈmɜːrdər/	/fɔːlt/	/ˈkætəɡɔːri/	/bred/
/ˈsɜːrvɪs/	/rɪˈsɔːrs/	/ˈkɑːnfəs/	/ˈedʒuket/

Section 2. Multiple choice questions. Choose the word that contains the vowel sound described in the question.

1. Which word contains an open front vowel (/æ/)?

- A. Bet
- B. Bat
- C. Bit
- D. But

2. Which word contains a mid-front vowel (/e/)?

- A. Bad
- B. Bed
- C. Bid
- D. Bud

3. Which word has a mid-central vowel (/ə/)?

- A. Ago
- B. Agony
- C. Apple
- D. Angle

4. Which of the following has an open back vowel (/ɑ:/)?

- A. Cat
- B. Cot
- C. Car
- D. Cut

5. Which word contains a mid-central vowel (/ɜ:/)?

- A. Beer
- B. Bird
- C. Board
- D. Beard

Section 3. Matching Exercise. Match each vowel sound (Group A) with the correct group of three words (Group B) that contain that sound.

Group A	Group B
/æ/ – Open front	A. Bird, Learn, Word
/ɑ:/ – Open back	B. Cup, Luck, Sun
/ɒ/ – Open-mid back (British English)	C. Law, Caught, More
/e/ – Mid front	D. Banana, About, Support
/ə/ – Mid central (schwa)	E. Pot, Dog, Lost
/ɜ:/ – Mid central stressed	F. Man, Cat, Hat
/ʌ/ – Open-mid central	G. Palm, Car, Father
/ɔ:/ – Open-mid back (rounded)	H. Bed, Head, Said
/ɛ/ – Open-mid front	I. Pen, End, Friend