



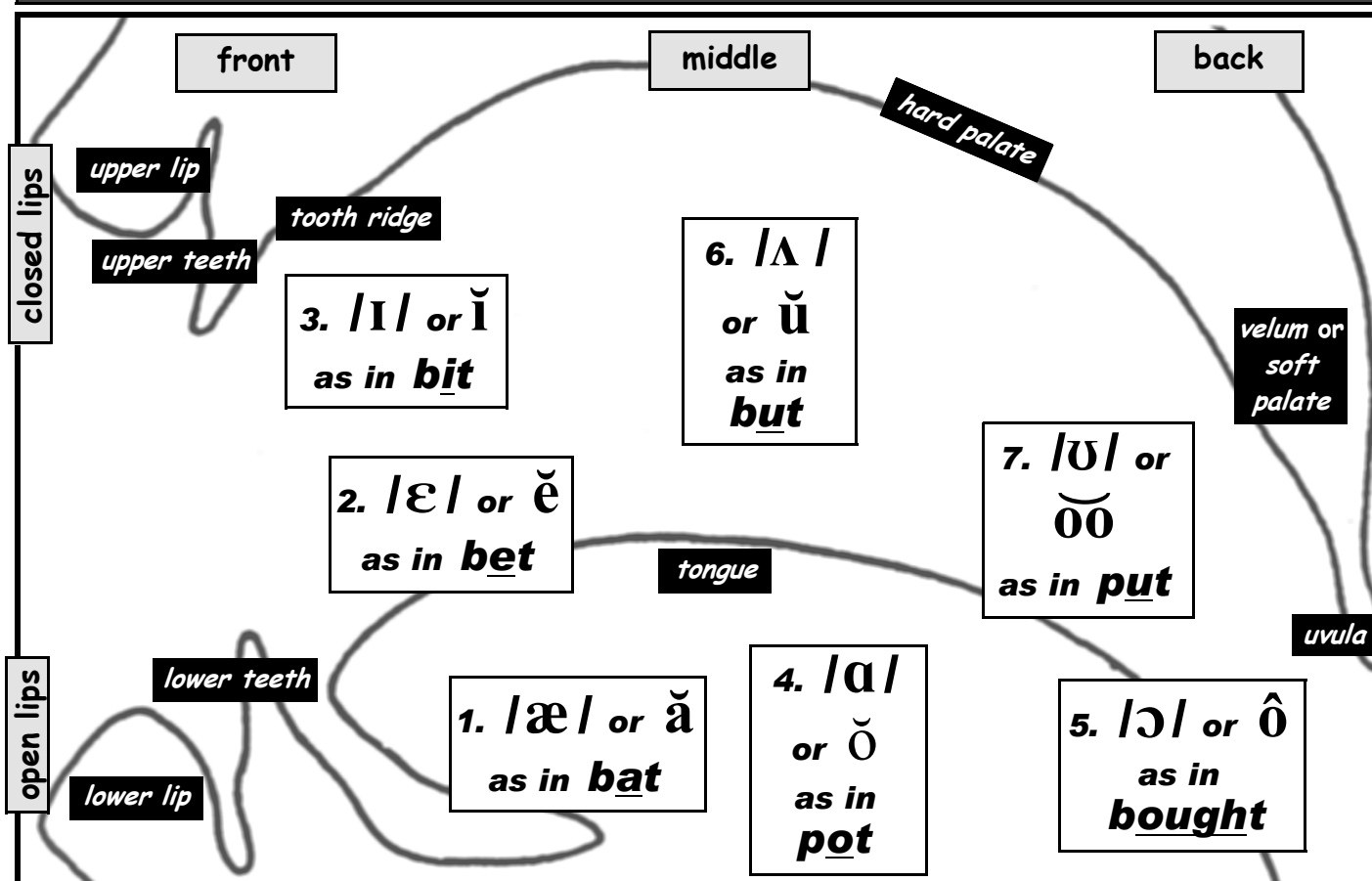
Pronunciation Practice

Part One: Talk About Things

Vowel Sounds

1.A **RECOGNIZE SIMPLE VOWEL SOUNDS.** In this diagram of the mouth, listen to and repeat the seven “simple” vowel sounds, numbered 1-7. In the word examples, the letters for those sounds are underlined. Can you read aloud the words?

Where to Pronounce the Seven “Simple” (Lax) Vowel Sounds in the Mouth ^[1]






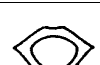



NOTES: ^[1] The symbols in the left part of the diagram are for “front vowel” sounds. Pronounce these sounds with the tongue in the front part of the mouth. The other sound-symbols are for “middle” or “back vowels.” For the sounds at the top of the diagram, the lips are partially closed. They are flat or spread for the front vowels. They are rounded for the back vowels. Open the lips wider for the sounds at the bottom.

PRONUNCIATION: "SIMPLE" VOWEL SOUNDS

"Simple" vowel sounds are pure sounds. They are not doubled sounds or glides or diphthongs. They are "lax" vowels. The mouth muscles "relax" to pronounce them.

Some books call these sounds "short vowels." Here are drawings of the position of the lips for these sounds:





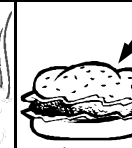
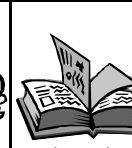



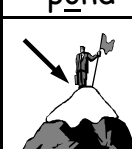
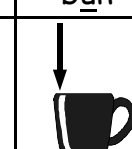





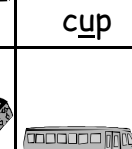
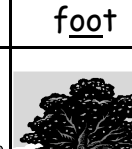



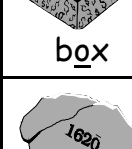
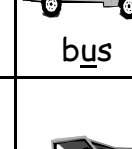







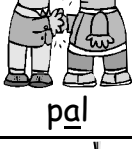


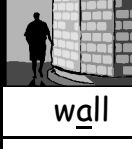

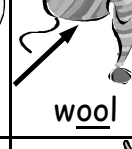
 1. /æ/ or ă	 2. /ɛ/ or ě	 3. /i/ or ĭ
 4. /ɑ/ or ǒ	 5. /ɔ/ or ô	 6. /ʌ/ or ŭ
 7. /ʊ/ or ǔ Some speakers use Sound 4, /ɑ/ or ǒ, for Sound 5.		

Why do some people call the simple vowels "one-letter sounds?" Because they're most often spelled with one vowel letter: *a, e, i, o, or u*. Here are the most common spellings for the sounds:

1. /æ/ or ă = <u>a</u>
2. /ɛ/ or ě = <u>e</u>
3. /i/ or ĭ = <u>i</u>
4. /ɑ/ or ǒ = <u>o</u> or <u>a</u>
5. /ɔ/ or ô = <u>a</u> , <u>aw</u> , or <u>o</u>
6. /ʌ/ or ŭ = <u>u</u> or <u>o</u>
7. /ʊ/ or ǔ = <u>oo</u> or <u>u</u>

In turn, pronounce one of the words from the mouth diagram on page 9. Can your listeners identify the vowel by number 1-7?

1.B SAY WORDS WITH SIMPLE VOWEL SOUNDS. Listen and repeat the words with the simple vowel sounds, numbered 1-7 at the top of these columns. Sound 4 and Sound 5 are together because some speakers pronounce them the same.





1. /æ/ or ă	2. /ɛ/ or ě	3. /i/ or ĭ	4. /ɑ/ or ǒ 5. /ɔ/ or ô	6. /ʌ/ or ŭ	7. /ʊ/ or ǔ
 pan	 pen	 pin	 pond	 bun	 book
 tap	 step	 tip	 top	 cup	 foot
 bass	 best	 dish	 box	 bus	 bush
 rack	 wreck	 trick	 rock	 truck	 rook
 pal	 well	 skill	 wall	 skull	 wool
 math	 shelf	 gift	 golf	 cuff	 hoof

1.C CONTRAST SIMPLE VOWEL SOUNDS.

Finish each sentence 1-7 with a different vocabulary item. Can your listeners give the appropriate response?

() = a less common spelling. Can you identify the vowel sound?

1. Look for a

 cab [You mean a taxi?]	 cob [You mean a corncob?]	 carb [You mean a carbohydrate?]	 curb [On a sidewalk?]
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2. What a big . . . !

band [It has 25 musicians.]	bin [It holds food.]	bun [It's for a superburger.]	barn [It's for horses.]
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3. What are . . . for?

jams [Muffins.]	gems [Jewelry.]	gyms* [Sports.]	gums [Teeth.]
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4. We want a

bell [To ring?]	bill [To pay?]	bull [To ride?]	ball [To throw?]
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5. Who needs . . . ?

jacks [Car mechanics.]	checks [People without credit cards.]	jocks [Football teams.]	jerks [Nobody.]
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6. What does " . . ." mean?

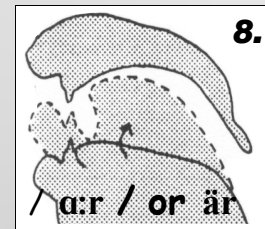
half [Fifty percent.]	huff [It's a fit of bad temper.]	wolf** [It's a wild animal.]	hoof [It's the foot of a horse.]
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7. Why do we need . . . ?

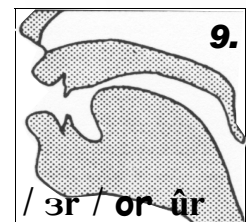
kitchens [To cook in.]	cautions [For safety.]	cushions [For sofas]	curtains [For windows.]
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PRONUNCIATION: "SIMPLE" VOWEL SOUNDS BEFORE /r/

How are the letters ar pronounced? Many speakers use *Vowel-Sound 8*: /ɑ:r/ or ä:r, as in party. To say them, begin with a flat tongue in the middle of the mouth. Curl the tongue back behind the tooth ridge.





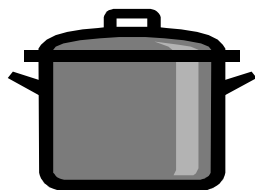


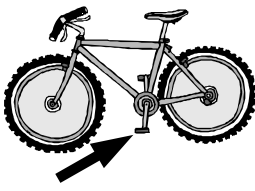
In syllables with simple-vowel sounds, the pronunciation of the letters e(a)r, ir, or, and ur is *Vowel-Sound 9*: /ɜ:r/ or û:r. Some examples are herb, earth*, bird, world*, and purse. Put the tongue in the /r/ position. Roll it up and back. Keep the open lips rounded.



For each pair or group of items, write the letter or letters for the vowel sound. Use one of the words in the numbered question. Can your listeners give the right answer from under the picture?

* = a less common spelling. Look up the word if necessary.



8. What does a ... have?		9. What's a ... ?		
Sound 1 /æ/ or ă  c__t [Fur and a tail.]	Sound 8 /ɑ:r/ or ăr  c__rt [Four wheels.]	Sound 1 /æ/ or ă  t__p [Part of a faucet.]	Sound 4 /ɑ/ or ă  t__p [A toy.]	Sound 8 /ɑ:r/ or ăr  t__rp [A waterproof cloth.]
10. Who needs a ... ?		11. What's a ... ?		
Sound 2 /e/ or ě  p__t [A child.]	Sound 4 /ɑ/ or ă  p__t [A chef.]	Sound 1 /æ/ or ă  t__n [Browning of the skin from the sun.]	Sound 3 /i/ or ĭ  t__n [A small can.]	Sound 6 /Λ/ or ũ  t__n* [2000 pounds.]
12. Who takes a ... ?		13. What's a ... ?		
Sound 6 /Λ/ or ũ  p__lse [A nurse.]	Sound 9 /z/ or ŭ  p__rse [A shopper.]	Sound 1 /æ/ or ă  br__nch [It's a tree part.]	Sound 2 /e/ or ě  wr__nch [It's a tool.]	Sound 6 /Λ/ or ũ  br__nch [It's a midday meal.]
14. What's a ... for?		15. Where can you find ... ?		
Sound 1 /æ/ or ă  c__ker [One-dish meals.]	Sound 6 /Λ/ or ũ  c__lker* [Filling spaces in a wall.]	Sound 1 /æ/ or ă  p__ddles [On a ping-pong table.]	Sound 2 /e/ or ě  p__dals [On a bicycle.]	Sound 6 /Λ/ or ũ  p__ddles [On the street.]

1.D SAY & SPELL SIMPLE-VOWEL VOCABULARY.

For the vowel sound in each column, listen and say the names of the items aloud. Write the missing vowel letters.

◆ = a less common spelling for this sound.

Now read the words aloud.

1. /æ/ or ä	2. /ɛ/ or ě	3. /ɪ/ or ĭ	4. /ɑ/ or ǎ
b <u>a</u> g str <u> </u> p gl <u> </u> ss <u> </u> pple st <u> </u> mp ban <u> </u> na j <u> </u> cket c <u> </u> ndle c <u> </u> mera b <u> </u> sket	b <u>e</u> d b <u> </u> lt ch <u> </u> ckers bl <u> </u> nder ch <u> </u> st p <u> </u> ncil j <u> </u> lly thr <u>ea</u> d* sw <u> </u> ter* f <u> </u> ther*	cr <u>i</u> b p <u> </u> lls m <u> </u> tt br <u> </u> ck s <u> </u> nk f <u> </u> ddle p <u> </u> llow b <u> </u> lliards g <u>y</u> m* cr <u> </u> stal*	kn <u>o</u> b bl <u> </u> cks m <u> </u> p cl <u> </u> ck d <u> </u> ll r <u> </u> cket d <u> </u> llars c <u> </u> tton w <u> </u> tch* w <u> </u> nd*
4. /ɑ/ or ǎ	6. /ʌ/ or ŭ	7. /ʊ/ or ǔ	8. /ɑ:r/ or är
b <u>a</u> ll s <u> </u> lt ch <u> </u> lk w <u> </u> lnuts str <u>aw</u> s <u>au</u> cer* f <u> </u> cet* cl <u>o</u> th c <u> </u> ffee	r <u>u</u> g dr <u> </u> m n <u> </u> ts br <u> </u> sh r <u> </u> bber p <u> </u> mpkin sh <u>o</u> vel* m <u> </u> ney* tr <u>ou</u> ble**	w <u>oo</u> d w <u> </u> l r <u> </u> f b <u> </u> ks b <u>u</u> sh* b <u> </u> llet* p <u> </u> dding* c <u> </u> shion* s <u> </u> gar*	j <u>a</u> r c <u> </u> rds y <u> </u> rn ch <u> </u> rt h <u> </u> rp g <u> </u> rbage c <u> </u> rpet p <u> </u> rsley cig <u> </u> r
9. /ɜr/ or ûr			
dess <u>e</u> rt sh <u> </u> rbet	sh <u> </u> rt b <u> </u> rger	t <u> </u> rkey p <u> </u> rls**	w <u> </u> rd*s* j <u> </u> rnal**

PRONUNCIATION: THE SPELLING OF SIMPLE VOWELS

The most common spellings for the simple vowel sounds 1-9 are usually, but not always, one vowel letter:

1. /æ/ or ä = <u>a</u>	6. /ʌ/ or ŭ = <u>u</u>
2. /ɛ/ or ě = <u>e</u>	7. /ʊ/ or ǔ = <u>oo</u>
3. /ɪ/ or ĭ = <u>i</u>	8. /ɑ:r/ or är = <u>a</u>
4. /ɑ/ or ǎ = <u>o</u>	9. /ɜr/ or ûr = <u>e</u> , <u>i</u> , <u>o</u> , or <u>u</u>
5. /ɔ/ or ô = <u>a</u> or <u>o</u>	

Here are examples of words with less common spellings for these sounds (*). Two stars (**) indicate a very unusual spelling—an exception to the rules for that vowel sound.

1. /æ/ or ä as in *plaid***, *aunt***
2. /ɛ/ or ě as in *bread**, *sweater**, *meadow**, *weapon**, *breakfast**, *feather**, *leopard***, *friend***
3. /ɪ/ or ĭ as in *gym**, *myth**, *hymn**, *symbol**, *crystal**, *building***, *sieve***, *business***, *women***
4. /ɑ/ or ǎ as in *watch**, *water**, *squad**, *drama**, *pajamas**, *yacht**, *corsage**
5. /ɔ/ or ô as in *saw*, *pawn*, *shawl*, *faucet**, *sauce**, *gauze**, *laundry**
6. /ʌ/ or ŭ as in *month**, *color**, *honey**, *oven**, *sponge**, *blood***, *trouble***
7. /ʊ/ or ǔ as in *bull**, *sugar**, *cushion**, *pudding**, *wolf***
8. /ɑ:r/ or är as in *guard***, *heart***
9. /ɜr/ or ûr as in *fern*, *shirt*, *turtle*, *turban*, *word**, *worm**, *earth**, *pearls**, *hearse**, *journal***, *courage***