

Meet the Schwa Sound

Learn to hear the quick 'uh' sound in everyday words.

WHAT DOES SCHWA SOUND LIKE?

Sometimes a vowel makes a quiet, relaxed 'uh' sound. This sound is called a schwa. Its symbol is /ə/.

Schwa is a quick, gentle 'uh.'

The schwa is usually found in a quiet syllable.

SAY THESE WORDS

Clap each word. Say the part in CAPITAL letters more strongly. Say the 'uh' part softly.

about**uh-BOUT**

The first syllable says 'uh.'

away**uh-WAY**

The first syllable says 'uh.'

banana**buh-NAN-uh**

The first and last syllables are relaxed.

sofa**SO-fuh**

The last syllable says 'uh.'

lemon**LEM-uhn**

The last syllable says 'uhn.'

pencil**PEN-suhl**

The last syllable says 'suhl.'

REMEMBER: The schwa is short and quiet. Do not stretch it out.

Clap the word, find the strong beat, and relax the quiet vowel.



Schwa Sound Practice

Name: _____ Date: _____

A. CIRCLE THE SYLLABLE WITH THE SCHWA

Say each word. Circle the syllable in which the vowel makes the quiet 'uh' sound.

1. **about** a - BOUT

2. **away** a - WAY

3. **sofa** SO - fa

4. **lemon** LEM - on

5. **pencil** PEN - cil

B. FINISH EACH WORD

Write the missing quiet syllable. Use uh, uhn, or suhl.

1. ____ - BOUT whole word: about

2. ____ - WAY whole word: away

3. SO - ____ whole word: sofa

4. LEM - ____ whole word: lemon

5. PEN - ____ whole word: pencil

C. USE A SCHWA WORD

Choose one word from this page. Write a sentence with it.



Read, Sort & Write

Practice hearing where the schwa sound appears in a word.

A. SORT THE WORDS

Write each word in the correct box: about, away, sofa, lemon, pencil.

SCHWA AT THE BEGINNING

The word begins with 'uh.'

SCHWA AT THE END

The word ends with a relaxed sound.

B. SAY AND WRITE

Choose one word from each box. Say each word aloud, and then write a sentence using one of the words.

Beginning schwa word: _____

Ending schwa word: _____

My sentence:

Adult Answer Key

Keep this page separate while the student completes the activities.

ANSWERS

Page 2A: about - a; away - a; sofa - fa; lemon - on; pencil - cil

Page 2B: 1. uh 2. uh 3. fuh 4. uhn 5. suhl

Page 3A beginning: about, away

Page 3A end: sofa, lemon, pencil

QUICK TEACHING ROUTINE

1. Clap each syllable.
2. Say the strong syllable clearly.
3. Say the quiet schwa syllable quickly.
4. Blend the whole word smoothly.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Ask: What sound does the schwa make? Where do you hear the schwa in each word? Remind the student that the schwa itself is the relaxed 'uh' vowel sound. Other sounds may come before or after it, as in 'uhn' and 'suhl.'

TEACHING TIP: Listen for the sound instead of relying only on spelling.

Any written vowel can make the schwa sound in an unstressed syllable.