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## Characteristics:

- Most common vowel sound in the English language.
- Quick / Relaxed / Neutral vowel sound.
- Function of syllable stress NOT spelling.

## When does it occur?

- Occurs in the unstressed syllable of a multi-syllable word.
- USUALLY occurs in the reduced syllables of a Function Word

Function Words	Examples
Prepositions	of, at, in, on, under...
Pronouns	He, they, him, her, you...
Determiners	The, a, an, some, that...
Conjunctions	And, that, when, or, but...
Modal Verbs	Can, must, will, should...
Auxiliary Verbs	Will, do, does, did, be (is, am, are)...
Particles	No, not, not, as...

## What vowels produce the Schwa?

- A    **Adept**
- E    **Synthesis**
- I    **Decimal**
- O    **Harmony**
- U    **Medium**
- Y    **Syringe**

*Repeat the phrases below. The underlined word will contain the schwa.*

Each and every

a box of apples

Three or four

Cold as ice

we can stay

Close to home

Feel at ease

cup of tea

There are some

John had gone

none have broken

Ten to two

That would be wonderful

Wait for your brother

That was that

These are cheap

More than that

Get some sleep

## Best Teach

*Pronounce each word out loud. Then write the schwa symbol over the corresponding syllable. Be careful! There might be more than one schwa in a single word.*

1) Doctor

7) Occasion

2) Tomorrow

8) Wanted

3) Summer

9) Survive

4) Interesting

10) Protect

5) Instant

11) A lot of

6) Banana

12) Director

*Now, read each word carefully and decide what vowel(s) is creating the schwa sound. Write the vowel that you think is responsible for the schwa.*

1) əgree

6) ənterprɪt

2) sensər

7) Pɪgən

3) Regən

8) Faməs

4) Bəfore

9) Cousən

5) Rəsponsəblə

10) Stadiəm

*Listen to each sentence carefully and write the schwa sound above all the vowels/words that you hear.*

1) It's for you.

2) It takes a lot of time.

3) How about a cup of tea?

4) What are you doing tonight?

5) What time will you arrive to Peru?

6) Do you think we should go to the cinema

7) The stadium is closed for a private function.

8) This book is about pronunciation.

9) You need to pay attention all the time.

10) Do you think you can help me out?