

## Schwa Sound List of Words

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Schwa can be represented by any of the vowel letters and by a few other letters or letter combinations. It's most commonly spelt with the letters a, o and e. We've sorted the words into categories and highlighted the letters representing the schwa sound in the list of words below...

### Schwa Sound at the Beginning of Words with an Initial Unstressed Syllable

about above again ago ahead alive alone amaze amount away

balloon

effect elastic electric erupt event (some of the highlighted letters in these words might be pronounced as the 'short i' sound in some accents).

below

bikini (might be pronounced as the 'short i' sound in some accents).

obtain occur offend omit

confess continue police protect today tomorrow

upon

supply support

syringe

berserk perceive percent perhaps permit (verb) perplexed (might be pronounced as /ur/ in some accents).

forget (might be pronounced as /ur/ in some accents).

survive (might be pronounced as /ur/ in some accents).

### Schwa Sound at the End of Words with a Final Unstressed Syllable

China comma extra lava panda pasta sofa umbrella zebra

animal coral dual fatal hospital oval pedal postal royal viral

atlas compass pleasant salad thousand

broken children eleven even happen heaven kitten oven taken token

anthem item problem system tandem

basket carpet cutlet fidget helmet pelmet piglet prophet quiet violet

angel bagel bowel camel level model pixel towel travel vowel



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apple battle bible cattle jungle maple noble paddle turtle uncle (Can be pronounced as /uhl/ or sometimes just as /l/)
client decent moment parent present
April basil civil council devil evil fossil lentil pencil peril pupil
basin cousin raisin
denim
blossom boredom bottom custom fathom freedom kingdom phantom random wisdom
arson beckon button common cotton demon felon lesson ribbon wagon
abbot bigot carrot idiot ingot maggot parrot pilot pivot zealot
purpose
dandruff
asylum album medium opium possum serum talcum
bogus bonus cactus discus minus mucus rhombus Venus virus walrus
Beryl Cheryl Daryl vinyl
bargain Britain captain certain curtain fountain mountain villain (can be pronounced as the 'short i' sound in some accents).
calendar cellar dollar jaguar nectar pillar polar vicar vinegar wizard (people in the USA are more likely to pronounce a relaxed /ur/ sound in these words).
alerted excited bearded landed wanted (can be pronounced as the 'short i' sound in some accents).
badger better butter corner flower freezer letter modern pepper teacher tower (people in the USA are more likely to pronounce a relaxed /ur/ sound in these words).
action nation potion station vision
actor alligator author comfort doctor mirror motor sailor tractor razor (people in the USA are more likely to pronounce a relaxed /ur/ sound in these words).
Arthur femur lemur murmur sulfur (people in the USA are more likely to pronounce a relaxed /ur/ sound in these words).
cupboard
armour colour flavour humour neighbour (UK spellings)
anxious cautious contagious delicious enormous famous hideous jealous nervous serious
borough thorough
acre centre (UK spellings) mediocre ogre



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capture creature denture furniture lecture leisure measure nature picture vulture (people in the USA are more likely to pronounce a relaxed /ur/ sound in these words).

### Schwa Sound in Middle Syllables

alphabet vitamin

bulletin celebrate enemy telephone

cavity difficult easily family\* horrible possible \*the schwa sound is sometimes dropped altogether in some accents and family is pronounced with 2 syllables as 'famlee'.

astronaut dinosaur

circumstance

energy poverty (people in the USA are more likely to pronounce a relaxed /ur/ sound in these words).

### Schwa Sound in More Than One Position

accident\* analysis banana cafeteria cinema conference delicate elephant\* eleven gorilla octopus

Pennsylvania principal vegetarian\* (\*the i in accident and the second e in elephant and vegetarian are sometimes pronounced as short i, /i/)

