

Outcomes

Pre-intermediate – Pronunciation 1

Words containing *a*

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The letter *a* can be pronounced in lots of different ways. For example, *gran* is pronounced /græn/, but *grade* is /greɪd/. Learning some phonetic symbols can help you because then you can find the pronunciation in a dictionary.

A 🎧 **1.1 Listen and repeat the sounds and words below.**

/æ/ gran /ɑ:/ dark /eə/ share /i:/ treat
/eɪ/ grade /ə/ arrest /ɔ:/ saw

B **In each group (1–7) below, decide which four words have the same sound for the ‘a’.**

- 1 brand / hat / value / terrace / wrap
- 2 behaviour / debate / creative / establish / steak
- 3 complicated / argue / aunt / heart / smart
- 4 active / annoying / pregnant / unreliable / facilities
- 5 airline / caring / research / repair / wear
- 6 cause / fault / install / warm / persuade
- 7 colleague / healthy / disease / steal / neat

C 🎧 **1.2 Listen and check. You will hear the common sound first, then the four words with that sound and finally the word with the different sound.**

It’s impossible to pronounce a word ‘perfectly’: native speakers often pronounce words – especially the vowel sounds – slightly differently. It is the reason we hear different accents. For example, many speakers say *staff* as /stæf/ and many others say /sta:f/. When you do exercises like this, don’t worry if you don’t pronounce words exactly the same as you hear on the audio. However, trying to say words is good, because it helps you remember them as well as being able to hear them better.

D 🎧 **1.3 You are going to hear eight groups of words. Listen and write them down. Then compare what you have written.**

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____