



## Schwa Exercise

**A What is schwa?** Answer true or false

	TRUE	FALSE
1 Schwa sounds like a grunt or short burp.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 The phonetic symbol for schwa is /ə/.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 It is essential to use schwa for people to understand you.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Nearly all English teachers know about schwa.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Knowing about schwa helps English students improve their listening skills.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 Native speakers use it more than people who learn English when adults.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Many auxiliary verbs contain schwa in affirmative sentences but not in short answers (e.g. can).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 Schwa makes native spoken English difficult to understand.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 Using schwa makes you speak more slowly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 It's impossible for a stressed syllable to contain schwa.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

---

**B Underline the syllable that contains schwa in each word or phrase.**

- 1 ago
- 2 mother
- 3 The man
- 4 Fish and chips
- 5 Oh no. Not again.
- 6 What's for lunch?
- 7 He can play football.
- 8 Look at that funny man.
- 9 What's it all about then?
- 10 I'm sorry but she's not in.
- 11 Did they go to New York?
- 12 She can't come from Sydney.
- 13 Can she come back tomorrow?

---

**C Circle all the prepositions in B. What do you notice?**





## Answers

### A

1-T 2-T 3-F 4-F 5-T 6-T 7-T 8-T 9-F 10-T

### B

- 1 ago
- 2 mothere
- 3 The hman
- 4 Fish and chips
- 5 Oh no. Not again.
- 6 What's for lunch?
- 7 He can play football.
- 8 Look at that funny man.
- 9 What's it all about then?
- 10 I'm sorry bt she's not in.
- 11 Did they go to New York?
- 12 She can't come from Sydney.
- 13 Can she come back tomorrow?

