

Pronunciation: We all know that English spelling is rarely a good guide to pronunciation. One big reason for this is the prevalence of **schwa** in the spoken language. That's why dictionaries and other written guides to pronunciation make use of a special symbol to represent the schwa sound. It looks like this: ə— an upside down e. But what is schwa anyway? Schwa sounds like UH. Any vowel can have the schwa sound. EX: A in amazing (uhmazing), I in replicate (repluhcate), Y in syringe (suhringe), E in quiet (qwyt), O in editor (editur)

Schwa is the sound we make when we are trying to think of an answer. Uh, uh, I don't know.

Practice pronouncing these words and tell which letter has the schwa sound.

dozen	model	carrot	nickel	medal	bulletin	absent	banana
beaten	calendar	citizen	balance	obtain	cancel	promise	patrol
alone	pencil	away	Korea	evil	tomato	ignorant	cotton

Listen for the SCHWA sound in these sentences.

1. The teacher said my son stole a nickel but he says he is innocent.
2. Take the shovel to the basement in the wagon.
3. The immigrants became citizens.
4. Check the appointment on your calendar.
5. Put the labels on envelopes.
6. Buy a gallon of ice cream and a carton of cigarettes at the community store.
7. Dozens of animals swam the channel.
8. Children played instruments in the talent show.
9. The pilot checked the bottom of the plane.
10. Citizens seldom have freedom.

Conjunctions connect two parts of a sentence.

Conjunction	What it does	Example
and	more ideas	We got in bed and went to sleep.
but	different idea	They learned English, but not well.
because	answers why?	We ran home because it rained.
or	choice/ list	Do you want ice cream or cake?
so	reason (like because)	I have a test tomorrow, so I will go to bed early tonight.
if	condition	My cat will only eat cat food if I warm it up.
while	at the same time as something else	I cooked dinner while my husband studied.

Choose a conjunction from the table for these sentences.

1. I like ice cream, _____ I don't like frozen yogurt.
2. We asked the teacher, _____ we didn't know the answer.
3. Phil loves cooking desserts _____ eating desserts.
4. They rent an apartment _____ houses cost too much money.
5. _____ I give you my letters, will you mail them?
6. Should I get the red dress _____ the blue one?
7. We like rain, _____ not snow.
8. I ate the pizza _____ the salad.
9. I have not seen _____ heard any dogs in this neighborhood.
10. I ran to the store _____ my mother started dinner.
11. Will you open the door _____ I can bring in the groceries?
12. I wanted the dress, _____ it was too expensive.
13. I told her I would pick her up _____ she decides not to walk home.
14. He carried the little girl on his shoulders _____ she could see the parade.
15. I went to college, _____ I didn't graduate.
16. I'll order our food online _____ we can just pick it up and go.
17. I answered the phone _____ I thought Mother didn't hear it ring.
18. Do you prefer swimming _____ canoeing?
19. I wanted to go to the movie, _____ my wife wanted to go dancing.
20. Don't wait until 5 to leave _____ traffic will be horrible at that time.
21. I drove through the night _____ my husband could sleep.
22. I ironed my clothes _____ I watched TV.
23. I took a shower _____ changed my clothes.
24. I went to that pharmacy _____ it was the only one open on Sunday.
25. Will you babysit the children _____ I put them to bed before I leave?

Fill in the blanks. Read your answers to the class.

- I love _____, **but** I hate _____.
- I always _____ **so** I can learn more English.
- My parents are _____ **and** _____.
- I came to the U.S. **because** _____.
- I usually _____ **if** it rains.
- On weekends I usually _____ **or** _____.
- I usually _____ **while** I wait for the bus.