

Pronunciation>The Schwa

The **Schwa** is the name for **the most common vowel sound** in English.
It is a **weak**, unstressed sound and it occurs in many words.
It is often the sound in grammar words such as **articles** and **prepositions**.
(the, a ,of, for...)

Getting the schwa sound correct is a good way of making your **pronunciation** more **accurate** and **natural**.

The phonetic symbol for this sound is :



In unstressed syllables

Any vowel letter can be pronounced as schwa and the pronunciation of a vowel letter can change depending on whether the syllable in which it occurs is stressed or not.

Compare *man* and *postman*

Other examples : brother, about, common, standard...

For exercises:

<http://eolf.univ-fcomte.fr/index.php?page=english-pronunciation-exercises>

see also:

www.bbclearningenglish.com