



**AMERICAN
ACCENT
COACHING**

with Audrey LeCrone

THE SCHWA



SECTION 1 CLASS 5

**THE SHORTER VERSION OF THE THINKING
SOUND CREATES THE AMERICAN RHYTHM**

“UH” -- The American Thinking Sound AKA the Schwa!

There are two different phonetic symbols for this sound:

1 ʌ for long UUUHH

2 ə for short uh (this is technically what’s called a “schwa”)

Most common schwa words:

a & the

Examples:

I’m at the store. = I’m at thə store.

She had a great day. = She had ə great day.

The class is fantastic. = Thə class is fantastic.

I used a computer for class. = I used ə computer for class.

HOMEWORK #1

Come up with as many sentences you can using “a” and “the,” pronounced ə and thə. Say them aloud. Make sure the sound stays relaxed and watch the positioning in the mirror.

HOMEWORK #2

Practice the ʌ sound with the sentences I give you in the video (only say “uh;” you’re not saying the actual words). Try to match the pitches and intentions in my sentences. This is to get this vital vowel sound as comfortable and relaxed as possible!



Further Practice with ʌ

Try out these words — they are all the same ʌ sound!

1 ʌ words spelled with U

bus, but, club, crumb, cut, drunk, dumb, dust, fun, gum, gun, jump, judge, just, luck, lunch, mug, numb, nun (none), nut, plus, rush, shrunk, stuff, such, thumb, up, us, abrupt, adult, bucket, budget, butter, button, chubby, conduct, consult, culture, custom, discuss, disgust, frustrated, funny, grumpy, hungry, husband, muffin, muscle, mustache, number, public, pumpkin, runner, Russia, structure, study, subject, subtle, suburb, subway, sudden, ugly, under, upset, upstairs, accustomed, assumption, construction, cucumber, customer, deduction, difficult, instruction, introduction, justify, luxury, productive, pronunciation, punctuation, republican, summary, ultimate, upside-down, vulnerable

2 ʌ words spelled with O

Blood, come, does, done, flood, from, front, glove, love, month, none, of, once, one, rough, some, son, ton, tongue, touch, tough, won, young, above, color, country, cover, doesn't, double, dozen, enough, honey, London, Monday, money, mother, nothing, other, oven, somehow, something, southern, stomach, trouble, another, anyone, comfortable, company, coverage, discover, everybody, government, nobody, otherwise, somebody, wonderful

HOMEWORK #3

Make simple sentences up using the words above. Stay relaxed while doing the ʌ/ə sound! Check in the mirror to make sure your mouth stays in the correct position.