

The /a/ sound

Listen to these dialogues and repeat after the speaker. The second speaker is using a common English expression. To learn the meaning of the expression, check the text. The expression contains a word with the /a/ sound. Make sure you're pronouncing the /a/ correctly. Also, listen carefully to which words are stressed and which ones are reduced and try to imitate that pattern. Also, pay attention to how the words are connected smoothly together. Speaking like this will make you sound like a native speaker.

Note:

- The words in bold letters are expressions and idioms.
- The underlined word should be stressed.
- The meaning of the expression or idiom is in parentheses.

Words with the /a/ sound used in the dialogues:

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|------------|------------|-----------|
| 1. across | 6. gotta | 11. often |
| 2. common | 7. job | 12. on |
| 3. crossed | 8. lot | 13. shot |
| 4. drop | 9. not | 14. stop |
| 5. got | 10. office | 15. top |

1. How are you?
Not too bad.
2. Are you hungry?
Not at all. (not even a little)
3. Do you know what I mean?
Yes, **I got it.** (I understood it.)
4. Can I pay for dinner?
No, no, **I got it.** (I will pay for it.)
5. Can you stay longer?
Sorry, **I gotta go.** (I must go.)

6. Can he win the election?
Anything is possible.
7. How did I do?
Good job!
8. I like that blouse.
You should **try it on**.
9. Are you upset?
Not a bit. (Absolutely not. Not at all.)
10. He ate five pieces of chicken.
And he had dessert **on top of it.** (in addition to that)
11. When will you come over?
I'll **stop by** tomorrow. (come to visit you)
12. Do you drive to work?
No, I have a **home office**.
13. Do you ever eat Mexican food?
Yeah, **every so often**. (Sometimes, not very often)
14. Do you know much about it?
Not a whole lot. (not very much)
15. Can you tell me some more about it?
Let's drop the subject. (Let's not talk about that topic anymore.)
16. He might be lying.
That's **crossed my mind**. (I thought of that.)
17. Should I try to do it?
Yes, I think you should **give it a shot**. (Try to do it.)
18. Wow, you and I are very similar.
Yes, we have **a lot in common**. (There are many similarities between us.)
19. Exercise is good for health.
That's **common knowledge**. (It's a well-accepted fact. Everyone knows it's true.)
20. Have you seen my book?
No, I'll let you know if I **come across it**. (find by chance)