



**AMERICAN  
ACCENT  
COACHING**

*with Audrey LeCrone*

æ



**SECTION 3 CLASS 5**

**THE SMILEY A IS A FUN AMERICAN SOUND & ONE  
OF THE MOST COMMON PROBLEM VOWELS**

## æ - Smiley A

### How it's spelled:

a: fast, lap, glass, half, dance, snack, pan, pass, jazz, staff, wrap, attach, candy, cancel, pattern, salmon, actual, after, rather, advantage, disaster, example, family

### Less common spellings:

ai: plaid

au: laugh

### æn or æm feels more nasally

**Examples:** am, an, sand, ran, plant, advanced, ham, salmon, sandwich

### Words that are **ɑ** in British RP English but **æ** in American English:

ask, bath, blast, branch, brass, calf, can't, cast, chance, chant, clasp, class, craft, dance, draft, fast, flask, France, gasp, glance, glass, grant, graph, grasp, grass, half, last, laugh, mask, pass, past, path, plant, slant, task, trance, vast, wrath, advance, after, answer, basket, behalf, casket, castle, command, demand, enhance, fasten, forecast, giraffe, lather, master, nasty, pastor, pasture, plaster, rather, sample, transplant, trespass, vantage, advantage, disadvantage, disaster, example, paragraph, raspberry, reprimand

### Sentences:

I'm having a salmon salad and a ham sandwich.

I'm hæving a sæmon sælad ænd a hæm sændwich.

The zoo had lambs and rabbits for kids to handle.

The zoo hæd læms ænd ræbbits for kids to hændle.



I'm so happy Anna gets to travel to Africa.

I'm so hæppy ænnə gets to trævəl to æfricə.

My manager handed out customer satisfaction evaluations.

My mænager hænded out customer sætisfæction evæluations.

Matt is a rapper from California.

Mætt is a ræpper from Cælifornia.

Sandy will have the last laugh.

Sændy will hæve the læst læf.

I'd rather go to a castle in France.

I'd ræther go to a cæstle in Frænce.

I like to snack on bags of dried bananas.

I like to snæck on bægs of dried banænas.

The man evaluated Hanna's standard Spanish.

The mæn evæluated Hænna's stændard Spænish.

Lacking a plan of action posed challenges in the past.

Læcking a plæn of æction posed chællenges in the pæst.

My manager is asking for more accuracy in the plan.

My mænager is æsking for more æccuracy in the plæn.

The fact is, he has not actually given my cash back.

The fæct is, he hæs not æctually given my cæsh bæck.



## æ vs ε

fast fest  
mass mess  
tan ten  
chat check  
sat set  
gas guess  
pass pest  
flash flesh

### Sentences with both æ and ε

I am practicing my standard American accent.  
I æm præcticing my stændard American æccent.

Tammy went to bed well after ten pm.  
Tæmmy went to bεd well æfter tεn p εm.

The January magazine edition you sent was fabulous.  
The Jænuary mægazine εdition you sent was fæbulous.

Chad sent me his edited headshots at last.  
Chæd sεnt me his εdited hεdshots æt læst.

Our fresh breakfast had banana and cherry pancakes.  
Are frεsh brεkfεst hæd bænænæ ænd cherry pæncakes.

We practiced valuable techniques of the method in acting class yesterday.  
We præcticed væluable tεchniques of the mεthod in æcting clæss yεsterday.



## æ vs ʌ

fast fuss  
track truck  
laugh love  
pass bus  
dad dust  
ran run  
back buck  
at up  
after under

### Sentences using both æ and ʌ

As a matter of fact, my dad loves his summer acting class.  
æs ʌ mətə r ʌf fækt, my dæd lʌves his sʌmər æktɪŋ klæs.

The traffic is bad by some bus stops.  
Thɪ træfɪk ɪz bæd baɪ sʌm bʌs stɒps.

Can Chuck or Pat run faster?  
Cæn tʃʌk ɔr pæt rʌn fæstər?

Sandy is always up after sundown.  
Sændy ɪz əlweɪz ʌp æftər sʌndaʊn.

Does anyone have change for a hundred bucks?  
Dʌz æniwʌn hæve tʃæŋdʒ fɔr ʌ hʌndrəd bʌks?



## æ vs a (The tall A - AH - will be covered soon!)

bad body  
lad lot  
shack shock  
pat pot  
bag bog  
flap flop  
mass moss  
Dan Don  
sand song  
bang bong  
man mom

### Sentences with both æ and a

I finished my avocado salad off with a bar of chocolate.  
I finished my ævəcada sælad off with a bar of chaclate.

My mom sang a dramatic jazz song about magic and charms.  
My mam sæng a dramætic jæzz sang about mægic ænd charms.

Brad and Bob had pasta, sandwiches, and a pot of lamb stew.  
Bræd ænd Bab hæd pasta, sændwiches, ænd a pat of læmb stew.

Tom asked Hanna to follow him into the romantic landscape.  
Tam æsst Hænna to fallow him into the romæntic lændscape.

That tan clock is obviously not broken—Rob has stopped changing the batteries.  
Thæt tæn clack is abviously nat broken—Rab hæst støpped chænging the bætteries.



## ɑ, ʌ, æ

dog // done // dad  
long // lung // last  
paw // pun // pan  
off // under // after  
cot // come // cat  
lock // luck // lack  
talk // tuck // tack  
yawn // yum // yam  
solitary // sunny // sanity  
trolley // ton // tally

## HOMEWORK

Try finding the æ sound in the monologue, as well as in any additional text you'd like to use!

"Seize the day. Gather ye rosebuds while ye may." Why does the writer use these lines? Because we are food for worms, lads. Because, believe it or not, each and every one of us in this room is one day going to stop breathing, turn cold, and die.

Now I would like you to step forward over here and peruse some of the faces from the past. You've walked past them many times. I don't think you've really looked at them.

They're not that different from you, are they? Same haircuts. Full of hormones, just like you. Invincible, just like you feel. The world is their oyster. They believe they're destined for great things, just like many of you. Their eyes are full of hope, just like you. Did they wait until it was too late to make from their lives even one iota of what they were capable? Because, you see gentlemen, these boys are now fertilizing daffodils. But if you listen real close, you can hear them whisper their legacy to you.