

Words with Schwa ('a'): Student Read Sheet with Words

For this activity, students will practice reading words that begin or end with schwa using the letter 'a'. Students will decode words, build accuracy and fluency, and strengthen their vocabulary.

Materials:

- schwa read sheet for each student
- highlighter for each student

Directions:

This activity can be used with a whole class or in a small group.

Explain to the students, **"First we will use the "Call the Dog" strategy to figure out the unstressed syllable. Then we will highlight the vowel in the unstressed syllable and discuss the schwa sound it is making. After we have found the schwa in each word we will read each row of words three times. The first one is to be sure we read the words correctly. The second time is to be sure we read them at a good speed: not too slow and not too fast. The third time we read we will choose an emotion and read the words in that way."**

The initial reading of this page should focus on decoding the words accurately.

Steps:

1. For each word, tell the students the word, have them repeat it, and then use the "Call the Dog" strategy. For example, say, **"The word is *about*. What is the word? [about] Now, let's call the dog." [aboouuuut]**
2. Have the students identify the unstressed syllable and highlight the vowel in that syllable. Then read the word again before moving on to the next word.
3. To build fluency, read the page again. This time, after each word in the row has been decoded, have the students reread the row more fluently, without segmenting each sound. Continue doing this for all words.
4. For the third read, choose an emotion (happy, sad, angry, surprised, etc.) and have the students read the words that way
5. After reading all the words, students will read the sentences. They'll do this three times as well: First, you'll read with them and focus on accurate decoding. Next, they'll reread for fluency. The third time, they'll read with expression.



For Vocabulary Building: You can help build students' vocabulary by addressing words on the activity page that have multiple meanings or words that students may not know.

- For example, students may not know the meaning of the word *cobra*. You can say, **"Cobra is a type of snake."**
- Have the students repeat, "Cobra is a type of snake."

Teacher Tip: Store each student's read sheet in a folder or binder so they can use them for additional practice, if needed.

Name _____ Date _____

Schwa



across	above	cobra	china
extra	attach	alone	comma
away	tuna	agree	drama
pizza	panda	adopt	afraid

Would you like extra tuna on your pizza?

I was afraid of the cobra.