

Words with schwa spelling practice

Look at the level that your teacher tells you to, and correct all the spelling mistakes. There is at least one per line.

Try to work out why those spelling mistakes were made and what they all have in common, and use that to help with and check your answers.

Hint: Most of the words which need to be changed are in alphabetical order (by the correct spelling).

Check your answers with the key or as a class.

Practise pronouncing some of the words as they are written with the spelling mistakes, and so with schwa in the normal places.

Test each other on the words:

- Say the lines as they are written below/ are usually pronounced, and as they are spelt and so not normally pronounced (or vice versa), and see if your partner can say which is which
- Say a word that is spelt wrongly below as it is written/ is normally pronounced and see if your partner can spell it, giving them the context of the rest of the line if they need it
- Say a word as it is spelt/ as it is not normally pronounced, and see if your partner can repeat it back with schwa in the right place or places
- Ask each other some of the questions, making sure you use natural pronunciation with schwa (not how the word is spelled), and not looking at the questions when you are the person who should answer.

Suggested answers

Level 1 about/ accountant/ address/ agree/ apartment/ Britain/ August/ banana/ breakfast/ button/ colour/ dollars/ eleven/ o'clock/ German/ husband/ lemon/ listen/ London/ magazines/ moment/ motorbike/ neighbours/ often/ pasta/ a/ open/ parents/ problem/ question/ salad/ seven/ station/ student/ television/ tomatoes/ visitors

Level 2 afraid/ appointments/ around/ balloon/ beaten/ broken/ celebrate/ chosen/ correct/ cousins/ curtains/ eaten/ elevator/ fashionable/ forgotten/ instrument/ insurance/ marathon/ octopus/ oven/ passionate/ popular/ company/ reason/ recently/ science/ season/ similar/ talents/ umbrella

Level 3 absent/ ancient/ Roman/ arrogant/ Bachelor's/ burglar(s)/ carbon/ common/ current/ effects/ efficient/ unemployment/ fluent/ forward/ freedom/ hooligans/ imaginative/ instant/ pavement/ petrol/ seldom/ stomach/ tutor/ vegans

Level 4 affectionate/ anthem/ balanced/ beggars/ councillor/ delicate/ organ/ donor/ emperor/ enjoyment/ equator/ heaven/ innovative/ items/ major/ monument/ parrot/ particular/ patience/ sector/ sensible/ servants/ slogans/ sponsoring/ support/ wisdom

Level 1

1. I'm writing to you erbout...
2. What do you do? I'm an erccountant
3. What is your email erddress?
4. Do you ergree with learning English from very young?
5. Do you live in a house or an erpartment?
6. Do you have any holiday plans? Yes, I'm going to Britern in Augerst.
7. Do you often eat fruit? No, but I often eat a bernaner for breakferst.
8. How can I turn the lights on? Press this buttern.
9. What's your favourite coler? It's red.
10. How much was that coffee? It was four dollers and fifty cents.
11. What time do you usually go to bed? Erleven er'clock.
12. Can you speak Germern?
13. What does your husbernd or wife do? He's a movie acter.
14. Do you like lemern with your tea?
15. How often do you listern to textbook recordings outside class?
16. Are you from Londern? No, I'm from Manchester.
17. Do you often read magerzines?
18. Can you write my name? Just a momernt, I'm looking for a pen.
19. Can you ride a moterbike? No, I can't, but I can drive a car.
20. Are your next-door neighbors noisy?
21. How oftern do you eat paster? I eat spaghetti once er week.
22. What time does the nearest post office opern?
23. Do you live with your parernts?
24. I have problem. Can you help me?
25. Can I ask a questern?
26. Would you like some salerd with your steak?
27. How old are you? I'm severn.
28. Excuse me. Where is the train statern?
29. What do you do? I'm a university studernt.
30. Is there a telervision in your bedroom?
31. Do you like termatoes?
32. How often do you speak to foreign visiters?

Level 2

1. Are you afraid of spiders?
2. Do you have any appointments this week?
3. Do you live around here?
4. Have you ever ridden in a hot-air balloon?
5. Have you ever beaten anyone at chess?
6. Have you ever broken any bones?
7. How do you usually celebrate your birthday?
8. Have you chosen where you will go on your next holiday?
9. So, your name is spelt... Is that correct?
10. How many cousins do you have? How old are they?
11. Do you prefer curtains or blinds?
12. Have you ever eaten bugs?
13. Do you usually choose the stairs or the elevator?
14. Is being fashionable important to you?
15. Have you ever forgotten your PIN number?
16. What's your favourite musical instrument?
17. Do you have life insurance? Why/ Why not?
18. Would you like to run a marathon?
19. Do you think an octopus would be a good pet?
20. How often do you use a microwave oven?
21. Are you passionate about any sports?
22. How popular is food from your country in other countries such as the USA?
23. Would you like to be a company president?
24. What's your main reason for learning English?
25. Have you been anywhere interesting recently?
26. Did you enjoy science when you were younger?
27. What's your favourite season?
28. Which of your parents are you more similar to?
29. Do you have any special talents?
30. Which do you use more often, a hat or an umbrella?

Level 3

1. How often are you absent from this class?
2. Are you interested in ancient history such as the Roman Empire?
3. How do you feel about arrogant sports stars?
4. How important is to have a Bachelor's degree such as a BSc?
5. Are you worried about burglars? Do you have a burglar alarm in your house?
6. What do you do to cut your carbon emissions?
7. How common are house husbands in your country?
8. What is your current job? How long have you been working there?
9. What bad effects can traffic noise have on people?
10. Are you an efficient worker, would you say?
11. Is unemployment a big problem in your country?
12. Is being fluent in English important to you? What can you do to increase your speaking speed and flow?
13. Are you looking forward to the weekend?
14. Did you have a lot of freedom when you were a teenager, or were your parents strict?
15. What can police do about football hooligans?
16. How imaginative are you? Is that important in your studies or job?
17. How do you feel about instant coffee?
18. How do you feel about people cycling on the pavement? Should they be forced to use the road?
19. By when should everyone stop using petrol in their cars?
20. Are there any foods which you seldom eat? Why don't you eat them more often?
21. What exercises would you recommend to get a flat stomach?
22. Do you think you would be a good private tutor? What subjects could you teach?
23. Are there many vegans in your country? What are the main reasons for giving up animal products?

Level 4

1. Do you like affectionate pets such as dogs?
2. What do you think about your country's national anthem?
3. Do you think that most television news is balanced and unbiased?
4. How do you feel about giving money to beggars?
5. Would you prefer to be a local councillor or a national politician?
6. How do you wash delicate clothes like woollen sweaters?
7. Would you be happy to be an organ donor?
8. Would you like to be emperor of the world?
9. Do you get much enjoyment from cooking?
10. Have you ever crossed the equator? Which country were you travelling to?
11. Do you believe in heaven? What would you like it to be like?
12. Are you good at coming up with innovative ideas? What is the best way, do you think?
13. What items do you usually put in your hand luggage?
14. Would you prefer to work for a major company or a small one such as a startup?
15. Do you have a favourite monument? Do you know what it commemorates?
16. If you could teach a parrot how to talk, what sentence would you most like it to say?
17. Do you have any particular specialities? How did you learn about those things?
18. Do you have a lot of patience? For example, how do you feel about waiting for buses?
19. What sector would you most like to work in?
20. Are you sensible about using money? Is there anything you waste money on?
21. Would you like to have servants? What chores would you like them to do?
22. Do you have any favourite advertising slogans? What products are they for?
23. What do you think about betting companies sponsoring sports teams?
24. Do you support any local sports teams? How well are they doing this season?
25. Do you agree that most people have more wisdom?