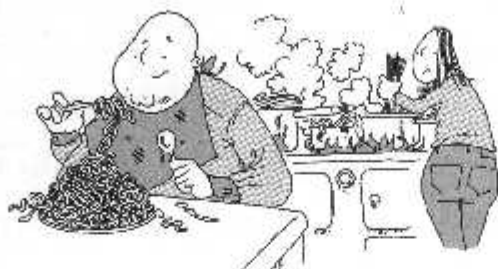


Exercises

7.1 Listen to the poem. Circle the words which rhyme.

A31



Mr Potter loves his pasta
 No one else can eat it faster.
 Mr Potter's sister Rita
 Boils the pasta by the potter.
 Mr Potter's older daughter
 Boils it all in tubs of water.

7.2 Listen. In each sentence or phrase there are two vowels which are not /ɔ/. Circle them.

A32

EXAMPLE an apple and a banana

- 1 from Canada to China
- 2 The parrot was asleep.
- 3 The cinema was open.
- 4 the photographer's assistant
- 5 a question and an answer
- 6 a woman and her husband
- 7 a pasta salad

7.3 Write the words in the correct part of the table. Then listen and check.

A33

orange woman return collect market begin visit asleep
 salad teaches needed letter sofa peaches quarter women

vowel in weak syllable = /ɔ/	vowel in weak syllable = /ɪ/
woman	orange

7.4 Listen and circle the word you hear.

A34

- 1 Woman or women? What time did the *woman* / *women* arrive?
- 2 Dress or address? Where's Kate's *dress* / *address*?
- 3 Manager's or manages? The team *manager's* / *manages* well.
- 4 Teacher's or teaches? The German *teacher's* / *teaches* English.
- 5 Weight's or waiter's? The *weight's* / *waiter's* heavy.
- 6 Dancer's or dances? The woman *dancer's* / *dances* fast.
- 7 Officer's or office's? The *officer's* / *office's* here.
- 8 Away or way? Take that *away* / *way*.
- 9 Driver or drive? What a nice *driver* / *drive*!
- 10 Racer's or races? The *racer's* / *races* finished.

Follow up: Record yourself saying the sentences in 7.4, choosing one of the two words. Make a note of which words you say. Then listen to your recording in about two weeks. Is it clear which words you say?

How many to Unit 2?

7

Carrot, cabbage

Unstressed vowels /ə/ and /ɪ/

A

In words with two or more syllables, at least one syllable is weak (does not have stress).

- A28 Listen to these words which have two syllables, and the second syllable is weak.
 carrot cabbage

In weak syllables, native speakers of English very often use the weak vowel sounds /ə/ and /ɪ/.

- Listen again to the two words above: the O in *carrot* is pronounced /ə/ and the A in *cabbage* is pronounced /ɪ/.

B

A29

- Look at the mouth diagram to see how to make the sound /ə/.
- Listen to these examples and repeat them. The weak vowels in the unstressed syllables in bold are pronounced /ə/.



weak A:	away	banana	woman	sugar
weak E:	garden	paper	under	
weak O:	police	doctor	correct	
weak U:	support	figure	colour	



"I ate an apple and a banana in a cinema in Canada."

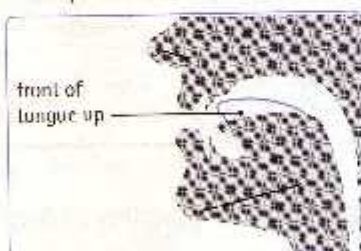
Important for listening

In words like *paper*, *sugar*, *woman*, the final R is not pronounced in many accents, so *vista* /vɪstə/ rhymes with *sister* /sɪstə/. For example, many speakers of English (especially non-native speakers) do not change vowels in weak syllables (p /ə/).

C

A30

- Look at the mouth diagram to see how to make the sound /ɪ/.
- Listen to these examples and repeat them. The weak vowels in the unstressed syllables in black are pronounced /ɪ/.



weak A:	orange	cabbage	begin	women
weak E:	dances	wanted		
weak I:	music	walking		
weak U:	lettuce	minute		



"Alex's lettuces tasted like cabbages."

D

Spelling

Notice in the examples above that nearly any vowel spelling may be pronounced as a weak vowel.



Note: Often, whole words are pronounced as weak syllables, with a weak vowel. For example: half an hour, going to work, Jim was late. See Unit 33.