

New sound: a

8

Lesson 8 of 92 (ages 3-6) / 2 of 86 (age 7+) · SATPIN · Ages 3-7+ · about 10 min

GOAL

Your child can say /a/ when they see "a", and hear it in words like ant.

WHY IT MATTERS

Short vowels are in the middle of almost every word. /a/ is the sound in ant, at, and: without it, nothing blends.

YOU'LL NEED

- The practice sheet for this lesson (worksheet.pdf) and a pencil or crayon.
- The lesson page on a phone or tablet, for the sounds and games.

LESSON FLOW about 10 minutes

1 min

Warm up

Quick flash of the last sounds: write "s" on paper, point, and your child says each sound.

SAY | "What sound is this? And this one?"

2 min

Listen

Play /a/ on the lesson page three times. Your child watches your mouth and copies.

SAY | "This is /a/. Watch my mouth: open mouth wide, short sound."

2 min

Show how

Show the letter "a" and the action: Wiggle fingers up your arm like ants and say a-a-a. Then tap the words on the lesson page.

SAY | "When I see a, I say /a/. ant: /a/ ant!"

2 min

Do it together

Sound hunt: find 3 things at home with /a/. Then do the trace-and-write part of the practice sheet.

2 min

Play

Play the games on the lesson page: hear /a/ and tap its letters, then find where the sound is in a word.

1 min

Wrap up

Ask your child to teach the sound and action to someone else in the family.

SAY | "Can you show Grandma our new sound?"

USE WITH THIS LESSON

- **This lesson online (listening + games)**
phonicademy.com/plan/session/sound-a
- **Printable: CVC Worksheet — Short A (Free PDF)**
phonicademy.com/printables/cvc-worksheet-a
- **Read: SATPIN Order Chart (Free PDF): Which Letters First**
phonicademy.com/blog/phonics-order-which-letter-first
- **The "a" sound — full page**
phonicademy.com/phonemes/a
- **Printable: SATPIN Order Chart (Free PDF)**
phonicademy.com/printables/abc-phonics-satpin-order-chart
- **Read: Phonics Stages by Age: A Realistic Timeline from 2 to 7 Years Old**
phonicademy.com/blog/phonics-stages-by-age

HEAR IT, FIND IT

Say the sound (not the letter name). Your child points to the letters. Tick first-try answers.

#	SAY / SHOW	CHOICES	ANSWER	
1	Say /a/	a, s, t	a	☐
2	Say /s/	s, a, t	s	☐

WATCH FOR common mix-ups and what to do

Says the letter NAME ("ay") instead of the sound. -> Names come later. For reading we only use the sound: /a/ as in ant.

Mixes up /a/ and /ai/. -> Different mouth shapes — "a" is wide and short; "ai" starts like "e" and slides into "ee".

TOO HARD? MAKE IT EASIER

Only do the listening parts today: hear it, say it, find it in pictures. Save the writing for tomorrow.

TOO EASY? MAKE IT HARDER

Ask your child to think of 5 words with the /a/ sound, and say where the sound is: start, middle or end.

HOW DID IT GO?

MY CHILD CAN...

- ☐ Says /a/ when shown "a".
- ☐ Hears /a/ in a word you say (ant).
- ☐ Writes "a" starting in the right place.

Date: _____

Colour in the stars:



Notes: _____