

Support for English Learners

Unit 4, page 52: Short a Words

Some children may have difficulty pronouncing words containing the short a sound.

Listen

Explain that the /ă/ sound in the Basic Word *an* is called the short a sound. Say: *Let's listen to the short a sound in the Basic Word an. Say: /ă/, /ă/ /ă/ /ă/, /ă/ /ă/ /ă/n, an. We use the word an when we are talking about one of something, such as an apple.*

Model the Basic Words *bad* and *can*, using the procedure described above.

Speak and Read

Say *an*, *can*, and *bad*, elongating the vowel sound in each word. Say: *Let's practice the Basic Words an, bad, and can together: /ă/, /ă/ /ă/ /ă/, äään, an; /ă/, /ă/ /ă/ /ă/, bäääd, bad; /ă/, /ă/ /ă/ /ă/, cäään, can. Encourage children to repeat after you.*

Write *an*, *bad*, and *can* on the board and have a volunteer circle the *a* in each word. Say: *Many words have the short a sound. We spell the short a sound with the letter a.* Have children read each Basic Word aloud.

Spell

Beginning/Preproduction Write *an*, *bad*, and *can* on the board. Have children name each letter and say its sound. Have them come to the board to circle the spelling of the /ă/ sound in each word. Lead children in chanting the short a sound.

Early Production/Speech Emergent Create word cards for the Basic Words *an*, *bad*, *can*, *had*, and *cat*. Have partners underline the spelling of the /ă/ sound in each word. Have volunteers take turns reading their word cards aloud, emphasizing the short vowel sound in each word.

Intermediate/Advanced Read aloud the Basic Words *an*, *bad*, *can*, *had*, and *cat* and have children write them in their word-study notebooks. Have children underline the short a spelling in each word. Ask volunteers to write the words on the board. Have them take turns reading the words aloud, pointing out the short a spelling and elongating the short vowel sound in each word.

an

bad

can