

Support for English Learners

Unit 1, page 18: Short Vowels

Some students may have difficulty identifying and pronouncing short vowel sounds.

Listen

Remind students that the Basic Word *batch* contains the /ă/ sound called the short a sound. Say: *Let's listen to the short a sound in the Basic Word batch: /ă/, /ă/ /ă/ /ă/, bääätch, batch.*

Now say: *Let's listen to the short a sound and the short i sound in the Basic Word vanish: /ă/, /ă/ /ă/ /ă/, väään, /i/, /i/ /i/ /i/, iışh, vanish.*

Model the Basic Words *pledge*, *polish*, and *bluff*, using the above procedure.

Speak and Read

Say: *Let's practice saying the short a sound in the Basic Word batch together: /ă/, /ă/ /ă/ /ă/, bääätch, batch.* Have students repeat after you. Continue with the short vowel sounds in the Basic Words *vanish*, *pledge*, *polish*, and *bluff*.

Write the Basic Words *batch*, *pledge*, *polish*, and *bluff* on the board. Have a volunteer circle the short vowel spellings in each word. Tell students that a short vowel sound is usually spelled *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, or *u* followed by a consonant sound.

You may want to point out the less common short vowel spellings in the Basic Words *cleanse*, *mystery*, and *somehow*.

Spell

Beginning/Preproduction Create and distribute a set of letter cards for the vowels *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, and *u*. Read aloud the Basic Words *expand*, *pledge*, *strict*, *sloppy*, *cleanse*, *promptly*, and *bluff*. As you say each word, have students identify the short vowel sound by holding up the appropriate vowel card.

Early Production/Speech Emergent Create and distribute word cards for the Basic Words *expand*, *pledge*, *strict*, *sloppy*, *cleanse*, *promptly*, and *bluff*. Have students read the words aloud and identify the short vowel. Have volunteers write the words on the board and underline the short vowel sound.

Intermediate/Advanced Ask students to choose four Basic Words. Have them write four sentences in their word-study notebooks, using a Basic Word in each sentence. Tell them to underline the Basic Words and circle the short vowel sound(s).

pledge

sloppy

strict