

American English Sounds to Practice

ah vs. uh

ah (This is /ə/, the short O sound, like in *octopus*. We often spell it with “o” or “a”) as in *hot*, *father* and *stop*.

uh (This is /ə/, the schwa sound, the most common sound in English. It sounds like “uh” and is often spelled with “u” or “o”) as in *hut*, *ugly*, and *love*.

Practice these minimal pairs

[ah]	[uh]
• cob	cub
• rob	rub
• cop	cup
• pop	pup
• dock	duck
• not	nut

Practice these common “uh” words that are often mispronounced.

- of (uv)
- love (luv)
- above (abuv)
- color (kuler)
- done (dun)
- one (wun)
- son (sun)
- ton (tun)
- month (munth)
- some (sum)
- mother (muther)
- other (uther)
- brother (bruther)
- oven (uvin)
- shovel (shuvul)
- Monday (munday)
- money (munee)
- touch (tuch)
- rough (ruf)
- tough (tuf)
- young (yung)
- double (dubul)
- couple (cupul)
- does (duz)
- what (wut)
- was (wuz)
- the (thuh)