

Skill focus

Short /a/ – CVC pattern

Time

15-20 minutes

I CAN STATEMENT / OBJECTIVE

I can identify and read short /a/ CVC words by segmenting and blending individual sounds.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How can I use what I know about letter sounds to read and build short /a/ words?

STANDARDS

VOCABULARY

consonant

vowel

MATERIALS

Word building cards (print + cut)

Sentence strip pages (printed)

Pencil or dry-erase marker

Optional: letter tiles

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- ✓ Technology
- ✓ Open discussion
- ✓ Think-pair-share
- ✓ Visuals
- ✓ Whole group
- ✓ Small group
- ✓ 1-on-1 instruction
- ✓ Hands-on-activity

LESSON

1.

Introduce the sound

Hold up the anchor word card (cat). Model the short /a/ sound using the ENL support guide below. Say the word slowly, emphasizing the middle vowel. Have the learner repeat.

[See ENL support below](#)

2. Hear it

Say the word aloud. Ask the learner to repeat it. Tap each phoneme box once as you say each sound – /c/ /a/ /t/. The learner mirrors the tapping.

All learners

3. Tap it

The learner points to each phoneme box on the card as they say each sound. Draw attention to the yellow box – "This is the vowel. It says /a/." Repeat for each card.

Point to the vowel

4. Read it

The learner reads the full word below the phoneme boxes. If they hesitate, point back to each box and blend the sounds together slowly.

All learners

5. Write it

The learner writes the word on the write line at the bottom of the card. Encourage them to say each sound as they write each letter.

All learners

6. Read it in a sentence

Move to the sentence strip page. Find the matching sentence for each word. The learner reads the full sentence aloud. Point to the phoneme boxes on the strip as a reference.

All learners

ENL SUPPORT REFERENCE

ANCHOR WORD & MOUTH GUIDE



cat

Use this to model short /a/

Open your mouth wide.

Drop your chin slightly.

Say: /aaa/ – hold it for 2 seconds.

The sound is in the middle of the word.

SOUND SPELLING GUIDE

Letter	a
IPA symbol	/æ/
Example words	cat, map, van

COMMON HOME LANGUAGE NOTES

Spanish: No direct /æ/ – closest is /a/ in "casa." Model the wider mouth shape.

Mandarin: /æ/ does not exist. Use the anchor word and mouth guide.

Arabic: Short vowels are often omitted in writing – emphasize that this vowel is essential.

REFLECT & CONNECT (5 MINUTES)

In this activity you practiced reading and building short /a/ CVC words by listening to each sound, tapping the phoneme boxes, reading the word, writing it, and reading it in a sentence.

1. How did you feel about working with short /a/ words today?

2. Which word was tricky for you or that you want to practice more?

3. Which word felt easy and good for you?

4. If you were teaching someone how to read a CVC word, what steps would you tell them to take?

5. Where might you see or hear short /a/ words outside of this lesson?

ASSESSMENT

Observe and note

- Learner correctly segments all 3 sounds
- Learner identifies the vowel box independently
- Learner blends sounds to read the word
- Learner reads the sentence with fluency
- Learner writes the word correctly

NEXT STEPS

Notes on next steps for this learner...