

short ă /æ/ A

initial	medial	
accident	bad	laugh
after	can	man
am	damage	matter
and	glass	ran
angry	had	stand
answer	happen	thank
as	happy	that
ask	have	understand
at		

CD One, track 1

Student A: What's the matter? You look angry.

Student B: I am. I had a car accident.

Student A: What happened?

Student B: A man ran a red light. He damaged my fender.
And he broke the glass on my headlight.

Student A: That's too bad!

CD One, track 2

medium ä /a/ AH

initial	medial
all	call start
almost	car talk
also	fall walk
although	far wall
always	farm want
are	father wash
art	hard watch
autumn	large water
	saw

Note: Speakers in many areas of North America will pronounce some of these words with the open ô /ɔ/ AW sound for the letter a.

CD One, track 3

Student A: Where do you want to go for Thanksgiving this autumn?

Student B: I almost always visit my father on his farm.

Student A: Really? Is it far?

Student B: Yes. Also, it's hard to get there by car.
All the roads are dirt.

CD One, track 4

long ā /eɪ/ AI

initial	medial	final
able	became	away
aid	explain	day
aim	gave	lay
ate	late	may
	main	say
	make	today
	place	way
	rain	
	space	
	table	
	wait	

CD One, track 5

Student A: Sorry I'm late! I can explain.

Student B: Don't worry. We'll make some space at the table.
Here's a place.

Student A: I wasn't able to get a taxi because of the rain.
Everyone was waiting for one today.

CD One, track 6

schwa a /ə/ uh

initial	medial		final
about	because	language	camera
<u>a</u> gain	can*	man <u>a</u> ge	idea
ago	company	message	pasta
amount	especially	probably	
another	hospital	purchase	
around	human	usual	
<u>a</u> tach	husband	woman	
<u>a</u> way			

***Note:** The pronunciation of **can** is usually reduced to /kən/ in the middle of a sentence.

CD One, track 7

Worker A: My manager is in the hospital. I'd like to organize a gift. Any ideas?

Worker B: How about flowers? If everyone at the company agrees to give a small amount of money, you can purchase some especially nice ones.

Worker A: Great! And we can attach a get-well message. I'll send a memo around the office right away!

CD One, track 8