

Strong and Weak Syllables (pp. 64-72)

- General Nature of weak syllables
 - The vowel is shorter, less loud and different in quality. Example: miner /maɪnə/. The second syllable is shorter, less loud and its vowel is “schwa” which cannot occur in strong syllables.
 - A syllabic consonant can function like a vowel in a weak syllable.

Button /bʌtn̩/, bottle /bɒtl̩/

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Vowels at the End of a Weak syllable

1. /ə/: better /betə/, manner /mænə/, sofa /səʊfə/
2. /i/: very /veri/, happy /hæpi/, Mary /meəri/
3. /u/: Thank you /θæŋk ju/, to ask /tu ɑ:sk/

Open and closed syllables.

open /əʊpən/, sharpen /ʃɑ:pən/

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- Strong syllables are stressed, weak syllables are not.
- A strong syllable has a vowel (not /ə, i, u/) as its peak (nucleus). When the vowel is short, there must be a coda. Weak syllables have a small number of possible peaks. They may not have a coda at the end of a word.

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Schwa /ə/

The most frequently occurring vowel in English.

Not all weak syllables contain /ə/.

In normal orthography schwa is represented by different vowels.

🔊 AU9, Ex 1
pp. 183-184

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