




# How to pronounce the letter A in British English?

Click on the links, listen to the sentences and say what pronunciation matches each word.

 **Arthur** Miller's **drama** play *Death of a **Salesman*** **takes place** in New York, not **far** from Greenwich **Village**.

 After the Stock Exchange crisis of 1929, the **American** society **has** become inhumane for humans.

 Willy Loman lives in an **alternate** universe: he **alternates** between the present **reality** and **images** from the **past**.

 **Linda** is a **moderate** woman, she **moderates** the **strange** and **desperate** **attitude** of her husband.

This table shows 5 possible pronunciations, but there are more.	æ as in character	ɑ: as in drama	eɪ as in Salesman	ə as in character / drama / salesman (in unstressed syllables only)	ɪ as in cottage (in words ending in -age only)
<b>Arthur</b>					
<b>drama</b>					
<i><b>Salesman</b></i>					
<b>takes place</b>					
<b>far</b>					
<b>Village</b>					
<b>After</b>					
<b>Exchange</b>					
<b>American</b>					
<b>has</b>					
inhumane					
humans					
Loman					
alternate (adj)					
alternate (verb)					
reality					
images					
past					
<b>Linda</b>					
moderate (adj)					
woman					
moderate (verb)					
strange					
desperate					
<b>attitude</b>					
husband					

## To be remembered...

### 1. Endings in -ATE have two pronunciations (both in British and American English)

**[ɛɪt]** pour les verbes : 'alternate, as'sociate [ə 'sɒʃɪ ɛɪt], 'delegate, el'laborate, 'estimate, le'gitimate, 'decorate, dis'criminate, generate, 'moderate...

**[ət]** pour les noms et adjectifs : 'alternate, an as'sociate [ə 'sɒʃɪ ət], a 'delegate, el'laborate, an 'estimate, le'gitimate, a 'candidate, a cer'tificate, 'chocolate, the 'climate, de'generate, 'delicate, 'desperate, effeminateate, 'moderate, passionate...

### 2. Endings in -AGE are pronounced [ɪ] (both in British and American English)

a'dvantage, 'beverage (boisson), 'carriage, 'cottage, dis'parage (dénigrer), 'garbage (ordure), 'heritage, 'hostage, 'image, 'language, 'marriage ['mæ rɪdʒ], 'manage, per'centage, 'sausage, 'village...

Exceptions : sabotage [ɑ:ʒ], collage ['kɒlɑ:ʒ], garage ['gæ rɑ:ʒ], massage ['mæ sɑ:ʒ]

### 3. Sequences -ANGE- et -ASTE- are pronounced [eɪ] (both British and American English)

change, range, strange, 'danger, angel, Assange / waste, 'toothpaste, taste, chaste, haste.

### 4. The letter A is pronounced [ɑ:] before a mute L (both in British and American English)

almond ['ɑ: mɒnd], balm [bɑ:m] (onction), calf [kɑ:f] (mollet ou veau), calm [kɑ:m], half [hɑ:f], palm.

### 5. The letter A is pronounced [ɑ:] before a mute R (in British English only): army, harmony, far, Mars...

### 6. Sequences AN+consonant ou AS+consonant are pronounced [ɑ:] (in British English only\*)

[ɑ:] with AN+consonant	[ɑ:] with AS+consonant	[ɑ:] in other cases
ad'vant <u>a</u> ge, ad'v <u>a</u> n <u>a</u> ce, Ale'x <u>a</u> nder, 'answ <u>a</u> er, <u>a</u> unt, 'aval <u>a</u> n <u>a</u> che, br <u>a</u> n <u>a</u> ch, c <u>a</u> n't, ch <u>a</u> nce, d <u>a</u> n <u>a</u> ce, de'm <u>a</u> nd, e'x <u>a</u> sperate, f <u>a</u> st, 'f <u>a</u> st <u>a</u> n, Fr <u>a</u> n <u>a</u> ce, gl <u>a</u> n <u>a</u> ce, gl <u>a</u> ss, gr <u>a</u> nt, 'Glasg <u>a</u> ow, L <u>a</u> n <u>a</u> ce, pl <u>a</u> nt, sl <u>a</u> nt, tr <u>a</u> n <u>a</u> ce.	ask, 'b <u>a</u> s <u>a</u> ket, 'b <u>a</u> s <u>a</u> rd, bl <u>a</u> st, br <u>a</u> ss, c <u>a</u> st, 'c <u>a</u> st <u>a</u> le, cl <u>a</u> sp, cl <u>a</u> ss, contr <u>a</u> st, di's <u>a</u> st <u>a</u> er, gr <u>a</u> ss, l <u>a</u> st, m <u>a</u> sk, m <u>a</u> st, 'm <u>a</u> st <u>a</u> er, n <u>a</u> st <u>a</u> y, p <u>a</u> ss, p <u>a</u> st, 'pl <u>a</u> st <u>a</u> er, 'r <u>a</u> sp <u>a</u> berry, t <u>a</u> sk, v <u>a</u> st.	<u>a</u> fter, ba'n <u>a</u> l, b <u>a</u> th, 'cr <u>a</u> ftsman, dr <u>a</u> ma, 'dr <u>a</u> ughtsman ['drɑ:fts mən], 'f <u>a</u> ther, photogr <u>a</u> ph, 'l <u>a</u> ger, p <u>a</u> th, r <u>a</u> ft, r <u>a</u> ther, st <u>a</u> ff, v <u>a</u> se,

\*except father and lager which are also pronounced [ɑ:] in American English, all these words are pronounced with æ in American English.