

Lesson 1.14 The Schwa Sound

The **schwa sound** occurs in unstressed syllables. For example, in the word *ba'·sin* the first syllable is stressed. The second syllable contains the schwa sound.

In the following words, the vowel that makes the /ə/ sound is set in bold. Notice how it appears only in unstressed syllables.

en'·**e**·my cas·sette' nui'·**s**ance ser'·**o**n pa·go'·**a**

Read each definition and the pronunciation beside it. On the line, write the word.

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|---|--------------------|
| 1. a tradition or habit | cus'·təm _____ |
| 2. materials made of baked clay | cə·ram'·ics _____ |
| 3. relating to mail service or post offices | po'·stəl _____ |
| 4. a person who travels in outer space | as'·trə·nə't _____ |
| 5. a married male | hus'·bænd _____ |

Read the sentences below. Underline the stressed syllable or syllables in each bold word, and circle the vowel or vowels that make the schwa sound.

- In 1910, Robert Baden-Powell founded the Girl Guides of Great Britain as a **coun·ter·part** to the group for boys he began in 1908.
- In 1912, Juliette Low started the Girl Scouts, a **sim·i·lar** organization in the United States.
- The Girl Scouts and Girl Guides both **fo·cus** on leadership, **char·ac·ter**, community, outdoor activities, and service.
- In **A·mer·i·ca**, the five age groups are called the *Daisies*, *Bro·wnies*, *Juniors*, **Ca·dettes**, and *Seniors*.
- Today, there are nearly 10 **mil·lion** members in 144 countries.