

The AW Sound

To make this sound: This is the sound many Americans make when they see something cute, like a baby or a puppy. You'll hear people say, "Awww, isn't he cute?" When you make this sound, your tongue is resting on the bottom of your mouth. The back of your tongue is slightly raised. Relax your jaw, slightly round the corners of your lips and say "AW". If you already know how to make the OW sound, as in brown cow, you can shape this sound from that one. Say OW and keep saying the sound as you hold your lips in the rounded position. Gently pull the corners of your mouth down and listen as the sound shifts to AW. Note the different spelling patterns that are used with this sound.

Practice Words

Initial

1. awful
2. awesome
3. awkward
4. author
5. auction
6. audience
7. audio
8. automatic
9. auburn
10. August
11. autumn
12. autism

Final

1. flaw
2. saw
3. draw
4. straw
5. law
6. jigsaw
7. outlaw
8. claw

Medial

1. daughter
2. caution
3. caught
4. haul
5. sauce
6. laundry
7. applause
8. nautical
9. sausage
10. bought
11. brought
12. fought
13. yawn
14. dawn
15. lawn
16. strawberry
17. chalk
18. talk

Practice Sentences

Initial

1. The unknown author wrote an awesome best seller.
2. Do you feel awkward speaking in front of an audience?
3. That old audiotape sounds awful compared to the digital recording.
4. It's only August, but it feels like autumn.
5. The woman with auburn hair won that item at the auction.

Final

1. I saw you draw that picture; it's beautiful.
2. Do you like to drink soda with a straw?
3. The outlaw felt no guilt about breaking the law.
4. The jigsaw puzzle was difficult.
5. A steamed lobster claw is delicious.

Medial

1. My daughter got caught yawning in class.
2. Use caution when you haul that strawberry sauce.
3. He brought the laundry down to the laundry room.
4. As dawn approached, he fought to keep himself from yawning.
5. His talk on nautical defense tactics received a round of applause from the audience.
6. We bought sausage and brought biscuits for the picnic on the lawn.
7. After they fought, the young couple had a long talk.

Tongue Twisters

- It dawned on Don at dawn
- I saw Esau kissing Kate.
I saw Esau, he saw me, and she saw I saw Esau.
- As I was in Arkansas I saw a saw that could out saw any saw I ever saw saw.
If you happen to be in Arkansas and see a saw that can out saw the saw I saw
I'd like to see the saw you saw saw.
- Mr. See owned a saw and Mr Soar owned a seesaw.
Now See's saw sawed Soar's seesaw before Soar saw See.

The next two Tongue twisters are not only good pronunciation practice, but valuable intonation practice as well.

Esau Wood sawed wood. All the wood Esau Wood saw, Esau Wood would saw. All the wood Wood saw, Esau sought to saw. One day Esau Wood's wood-saw would saw no wood. So Esau Wood sought a new wood-saw. The new wood-saw would saw wood. Oh, the wood Esau Wood would saw. Esau sought a saw that would saw wood as no other wood-saw would saw. And Esau found a saw that would saw as no other wood-saw would saw. And Esau Wood sawed wood.

—*Monty Python's Flying Circus*

- I thought a thought.
But the thought I thought
Wasn't the thought I thought I thought.
If the thought I thought I thought,
Had been the thought I thought,
I wouldn't have thought I thought.