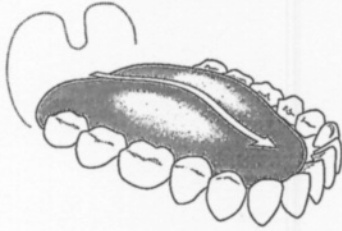


## CUP



/ʌ/



## Make the sound

## Vowel grid reference: 9

This vowel is short.



- 1 Relax your tongue, and rest the tongue tip just behind your bottom front teeth.
- 2 Slightly lift the middle of your tongue.

## When do I use this sound?



103

Spelling	Examples
u	fun, ugly
o	love, colour
oo	blood, flooding
ou	tough, double

## Now try it!

Say each of these words and sentences aloud. Then compare your pronunciation with the model on tracks 104–106.



104–106

- A**    cut    shut    butter    hunter    must    something  
 stuff    money    honey    nothing    enough    flood
- B**    1 There's just enough butter left for one more if you want another muffin.  
 2 I've had enough of your worrying – trust me. It'll be fun.  
 3 Nothing's as yummy as this Southern honey – you'll love it!

**C** Monkeys

There are dozens of different kinds of monkey. Some are small, and others are much bigger. Monkeys are closely related to humans – you could say they're our distant cousins. Sometimes when watching monkeys, we can recognize human behaviours, and it can be very funny! For example, some monkeys use tools and construct ordered societies. Scientific studies have shown that monkeys understand language and can solve problems and communicate. In some countries monkeys can be seen as pests; they sometimes gather in such large numbers that they can become quite threatening. There are stories of monkeys becoming rough and violent with members of the public. They also sometimes cause damage by munching on crops being grown on farms.

**Am I doing something wrong?**

- X** Making the same vowel sound in the words CUP and CAP. Both of these vowels are open and short so it is common for learners to confuse them.
- ✓** To say CUP, rather than CAP, the lips are less spread, and the tongue is slightly higher in the middle.

Watch the DVD to see and hear the difference between the two sounds.

First, check your lip position for both vowels using the *Vowel positioning diagram* (page 53). The /ʌ/ of CUP is open and long, but the /æ/ of CAP is open and wide.



- 1** Now, using a mirror, alternate between the two sounds:

uh-ah-uh-ah-uh-ah-uh-ah

ʌ æ ʌ æ ʌ æ ʌ æ

Make sure that you are doing a different lip position for each, and that your tongue moves slightly between the sounds.

- 2** Now try swapping between some words which have the sounds, like CUP and CAP or:

cut-pat	cut-pat	cut-pat
hut-cat	hut-cat	hut-cat

Don't let the sounds around the vowels change your lip shape too much.

- X** Making a sound that is too similar to the schwa (see page 54) instead of an /ʌ/.
- ✓** Open the mouth more, which will make the tongue feel lower.

Try the exercise below:



- 1** The following words contain both /ʌ/ vowel sounds (in CAPITALS) and schwa vowel sounds (in *italics*). In each word the /ʌ/ vowel is stressed. Say each one in front of a mirror and make sure the /ʌ/ vowels are CLEAR AND BRIGHT, and the mouth is more open, and the schwas are *small and quick*:

anOther	shUdder	nUmber	abrUpt	bUtter
cUstomer	hUndred	Utterance	obstrUct	

Learning to hear the difference between the two sounds will help you to correct this problem.