

Short a Worksheets and Centers

Grades: Kindergarten, 1st grade · Subject: English language arts › Phonics

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These pages come from Unit 02 of the K–2 phonics line: the short a part. Every word uses only the letter sounds of Unit 01, short a, and the heart words of Units 01–02.

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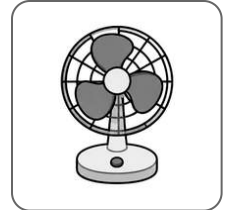
Read and match

Read each word. Draw a line from the word to its picture.

Name _____

Date _____

☐ bag



☐

☐ bat



☐

☐ cap



☐

☐ van



☐

☐ cat



☐

☐ fan



☐

Build it

Look at the picture. Write the missing vowel in the box. Then write the whole word on the lines.

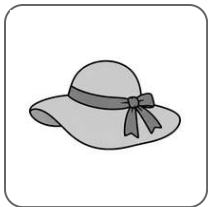
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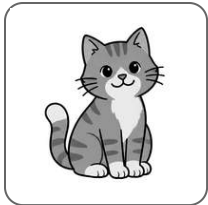
c p



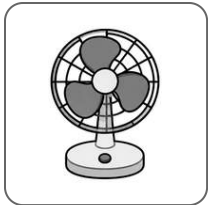
v n



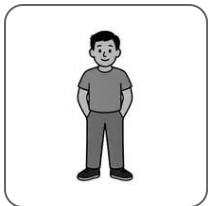
h t



c t



f n



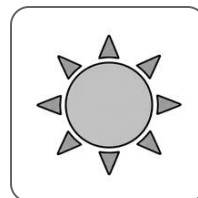
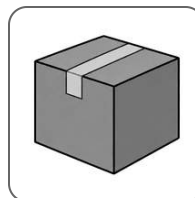
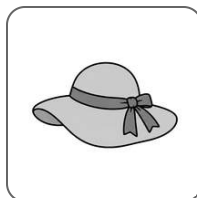
m n

Circle the picture

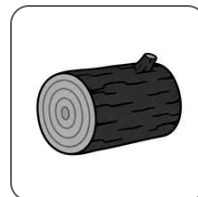
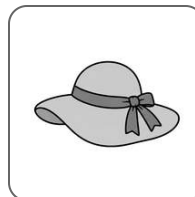
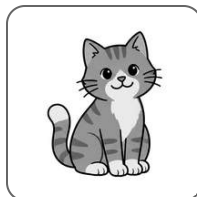
Read the word. Circle the picture that matches the word.

Name _____ Date _____

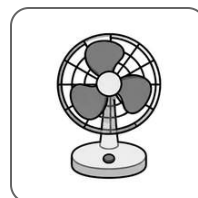
1 hat



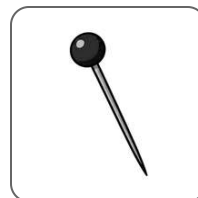
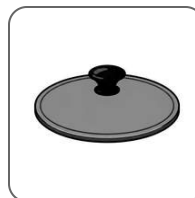
2 cat



3 fan



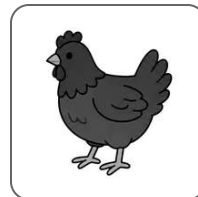
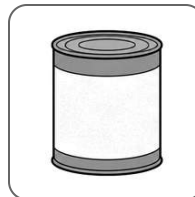
4 man



5 pan



6 can



Trace and write

Trace the word with a pencil. Then write it on the lines. Say the word.

Name _____ Date _____

bag

tan

sad

fat

pan

jam

lab

pass

Read and underline

Read each sentence. Underline each word that has short a.

Name _____ Date _____

1 Dad had a bag.

2 Sam and his pal ran to the van.

3 Pam was mad at the cat.

4 The rat can nap.

5 Dad had ham and jam.

Write your own sentence with a pattern word.

Finish the sentence

Read the sentence. Tick the box next to the word that finishes it.

Name _____ Date _____

1 Dad had a _____.

☐ ran ☐ bag ☐ sat

2 The cat sat on a _____.

☐ had ☐ mat ☐ ran

3 Sam _____ to the van.

☐ cat ☐ ran ☐ bag

4 The rat can _____.

☐ nap ☐ mat ☐ bag

5 Pam was _____.

☐ had ☐ sad ☐ ran

6 The _____ has a hat.

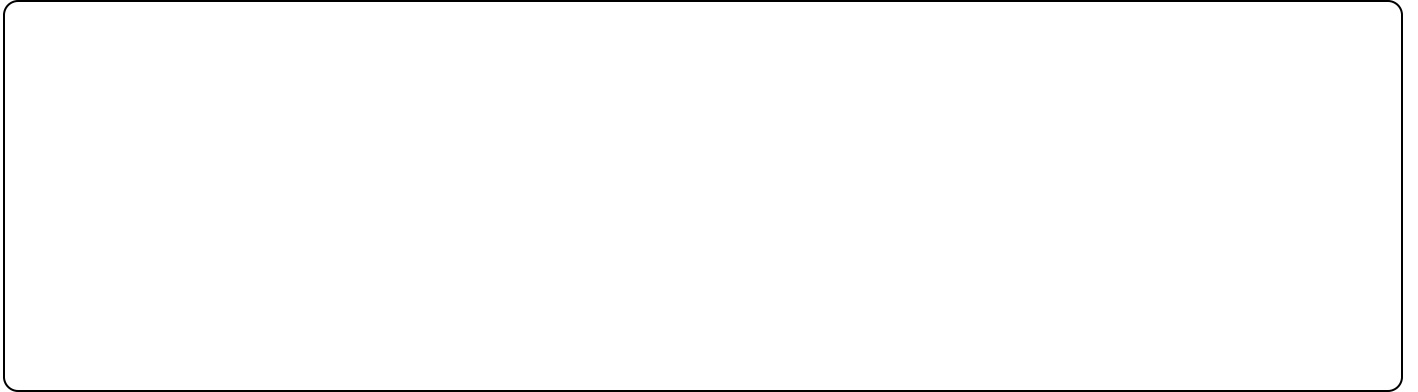
☐ man ☐ sat ☐ ran

Read and draw

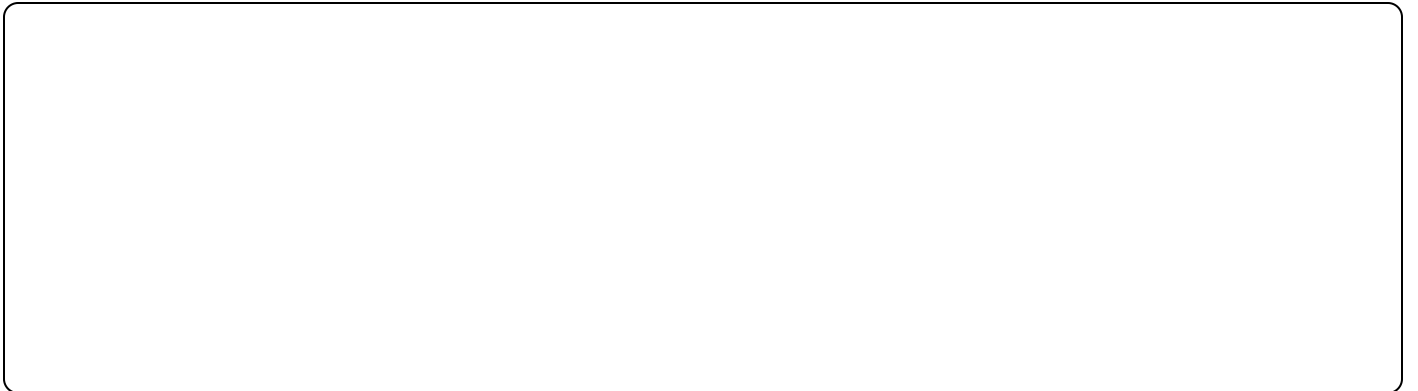
Read the sentence. Draw what it says in the box.

Name _____ Date _____

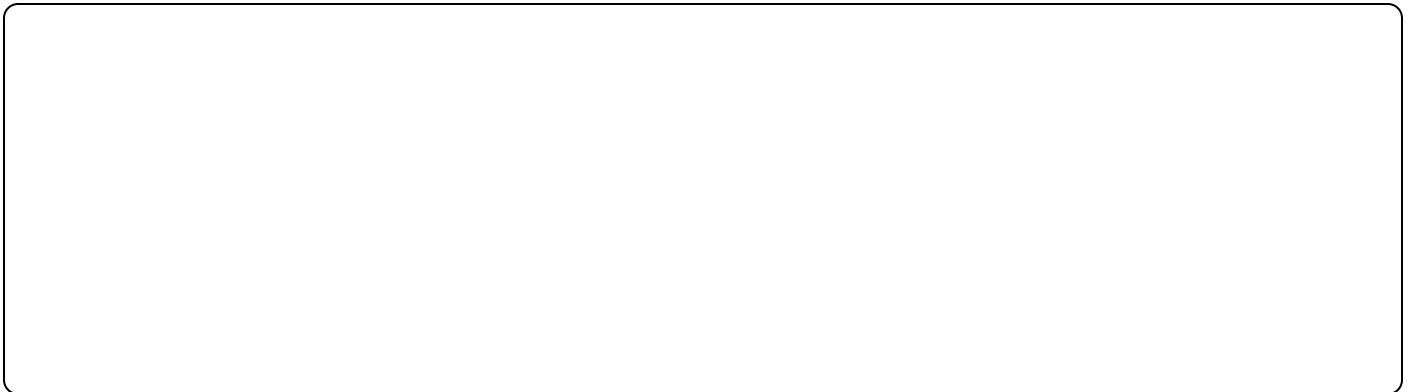
1 A cat sat on a mat.



2 The man has a tan hat.



3 A rat sat in a pan.



Spell it

Look at each picture. Choose the word from the word bank. Write the word on the lines.

Name _____ Date _____

cat bat hat cap van fan

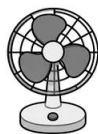












Header cards

Cut out the header cards. Lay them in a row. Sort the word cards under the header they match.

a

short a

i

short i

o

short o

Word cards

Cut on the dashed lines. Read each word card and put it under its header. No laminating needed to use the cards once.



sit



cat



bat



wig



van



zip



mop



pot

map

fan

fox

bib

lid

man

top

pin

dog

log

Sort and write

Sort the word cards. Write each word in the column where you sorted it.

Name _____ Date _____

a

short a

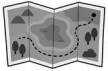
i

short i

o

short o

Board game: short a

START	2 tan	3 nap	4 ham	5 rat
10  cap	9 tag	8  jam	7 ★ Bonus Go ahead 2	6  van
11  can	12 fat	13 ★ Bonus Go back 2	14 lab	15 zap
20  map	19 ★ Bonus Go ahead 1	18  cat	17 mad	16 yam
21 pass	22 ban	23 bad	24 ★ Bonus Go back 1	25 pad
FINISH	29 ram	28  pan	27 had	26 tab

Game directions

Players: 2 to 4. Cut nothing. Play on the board page.

Materials

- 1 die (numbered 1 to 6)
- 1 counter for each player (a coin, a button or a small eraser works)
- The board page, printed once for each group

How to play

1. Put your counters on START. Take turns. The youngest player goes first.
2. Roll the die. Move your counter that many spaces along the path.
3. Read the word on your space out loud. If a picture is on the space, say the word it shows too.
4. If you read it right, stay. If you need help, a partner says the word and you move back to the space you were on before you rolled. Then your turn is over.
5. A space with a star and the word Bonus has no word. Do what it says: Go ahead 2 means move 2 spaces toward FINISH. Go back 2 means move 2 spaces toward START. Then read the word on the space where you land. A bonus move never lands on another bonus space.
6. The first player to reach FINISH wins. You do not need an exact roll.

Words on the board (check list)

tan nap ham rat van jam tag cap can fat lab
zap yam mad cat map pass ban bad pad tab
had pan ram

Task cards 1–8

Cut on the dashed lines. Use the recording sheet. Cards can be sorted and reused.

- 1 Put the letters in order. Write the word.

h **t** **a**

- 2 Which word does NOT have short a?

tin
pass
ran

- 3 Which word has short a?

yam
job
bed

- 4 Put the letters in order. Write the word.

a **g** **t**

- 5 Look at the picture. Which word matches it?



ran
had
bat

- 6 Which word does NOT have short a?

rap
him
dad

- 7 Find the word that is the same as this word.

ham | hot
hat
ham

- 8 Finish the sentence.

Dad had a tan _____.
cap ran sat

Task cards 9–16

Cut on the dashed lines. Use the recording sheet. Cards can be sorted and reused.

9 Which word rhymes with this word?

hat | big
rib
cat

10 Which word rhymes with this word?

cab | pot
tab
wig

11 Which word does NOT have short a?

jug
ran
sat

12 Which word has short a?

wag
kid
tip

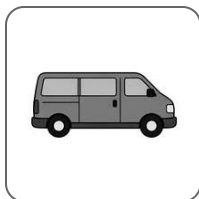
13 Find the word that is the same as this word.

rap | tip
ran
rap

14 Which word has short a?

fox
mat
pup

15 Look at the picture. Which word matches it?



van
wag
fan

16 Finish the sentence.

A rat sat in a _____.
had ran pan

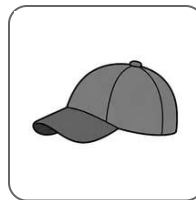
Task cards 17–24

Cut on the dashed lines. Use the recording sheet. Cards can be sorted and reused.

- 17** Which word begins with the same sound as this word?

hat | job
six
hum

- 18** Look at the picture. Which word matches it?



fat
pass
cap

- 19** Finish the sentence.

The man had a _____.
ran bat sat

- 20** Which word has short a?

big
ham
yet

- 21** Which word has short a?

ban
rub
hid

- 22** Look at the picture. Which word matches it?



bag
tab
ram

- 23** Finish the sentence.

The cat _____ on the mat.
sat map pan

- 24** Put the letters in order. Write the word.

c **t** **a**

Recording sheet

Write the answer to each card on the line with the same number.

Name _____		Date _____	
1	_____ _____ _____	13	_____ _____ _____
2	_____ _____ _____	14	_____ _____ _____
3	_____ _____ _____	15	_____ _____ _____
4	_____ _____ _____	16	_____ _____ _____
5	_____ _____ _____	17	_____ _____ _____
6	_____ _____ _____	18	_____ _____ _____
7	_____ _____ _____	19	_____ _____ _____
8	_____ _____ _____	20	_____ _____ _____
9	_____ _____ _____	21	_____ _____ _____
10	_____ _____ _____	22	_____ _____ _____
11	_____ _____ _____	23	_____ _____ _____
12	_____ _____ _____	24	_____ _____ _____

Task cards answer key

Answers are in accent color, bold and underlined. Card types: picture, pattern, sentence, letters, odd one, rhyme, sound.

1 **hat** letters

3 **yam** pattern

5 **bat** picture

7 **ham** match

9 **cat** rhyme

11 **jug** odd one

13 **rap** match

15 **van** picture

17 **hum** sound

19 **bat** sentence

21 **ban** pattern

23 **sat** sentence

2 **tin** odd one

4 **tag** letters

6 **him** odd one

8 **cap** sentence

10 **tab** rhyme

12 **wag** pattern

14 **mat** pattern

16 **pan** sentence

18 **cap** picture

20 **ham** pattern

22 **bag** picture

24 **cat** letters

Exit ticket

Cut on the dashed line. Each student gets one ticket at the end of the lesson. Check the answers with the key.

Name _____ Date _____

1. Tick the word with short a.

☐ ox ☐ dip ☐ cab

2. Read. Underline each word with short a.

Sam and his pal ran to the van.

3. Write one word with short a.

Name _____ Date _____

1. Tick the word with short a.

☐ ox ☐ dip ☐ cab

2. Read. Underline each word with short a.

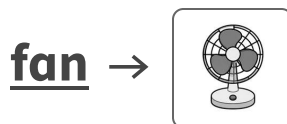
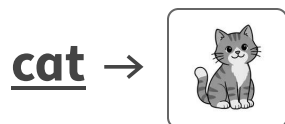
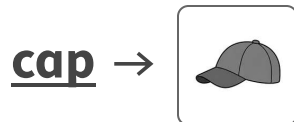
Sam and his pal ran to the van.

3. Write one word with short a.

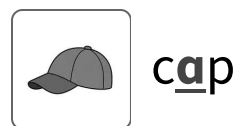
Answer key 1 of 4 • Worksheets 1–3

Answers are in accent color, bold and underlined.

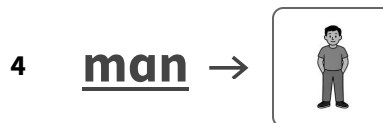
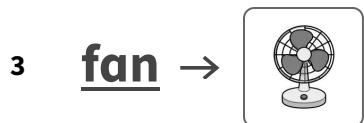
Worksheet 1 • Read and match



Worksheet 2 • Build it



Worksheet 3 • Circle the picture



Answer key 2 of 4 • Worksheets 4–6

Answers are in accent color, bold and underlined.

Worksheet 4 • Trace and write

Check that each letter starts at the top and sits on the baseline. Answers are the words shown.

bag

sad

pan

lab

tan

fat

jam

pass

Worksheet 5 • Read and underline

Underlined words are the pattern words.

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | <u>Dad</u> <u>had</u> a <u>bag</u>. | 2 | <u>Sam</u> <u>and</u> his <u>pal</u> <u>ran</u> to the <u>van</u>. |
| 3 | <u>Pam</u> was <u>mad</u> <u>at</u> the <u>cat</u>. | 4 | The <u>rat</u> <u>can</u> <u>nap</u>. |
| 5 | <u>Dad</u> <u>had</u> <u>ham</u> <u>and</u> <u>jam</u>. | | |

Worksheet 6 • Finish the sentence

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Dad had a <u>bag</u> . | 2 | The cat sat on a <u>mat</u> . |
| 3 | Sam <u>ran</u> to the van. | 4 | The rat can <u>nap</u> . |
| 5 | Pam was <u>sad</u> . | 6 | The <u>man</u> has a hat. |

Answer key 3 of 4 • Worksheets 7–8 and exit ticket

Answers are in accent color, bold and underlined.

Worksheet 7 • Read and draw

Drawings vary. Check that each drawing shows everything the sentence says.

- 1 A cat sat on a mat.
- 2 The man has a tan hat.
- 3 A rat sat in a pan.

Worksheet 8 • Spell it



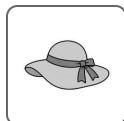
bat



cap



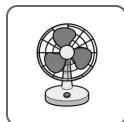
van



hat



cat



fan

Exit ticket

- 1 **cab**
- 2 **Sam and his pal ran to the van.**

3. Any word with short a is right. Check that the word has short a and is spelled correctly. The board game check list in this section shows the spelling of many pattern words.

Answer key 4 of 4 • Word sort and board game

Answers are in accent color, bold and underlined.

Word sort • words under each header

a – short a

bat cat fan van map man

i – short i

bib sit lid pin zip wig

o – short o

fox pot mop dog log top

Board game • words on the path, in order

Spaces 7, 13, 19 and 24 are the star Bonus spaces (7: go ahead 2, 13: go back 2, 19: go ahead 1, 24: go back 1); they have no word. FINISH (30) has no word. The 24 words below are on the other spaces between 2 and 29, in path order.

**tan nap ham rat van jam tag cap can fat lab zap yam
mad cat map pass ban bad pad tab had pan ram**