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P03. ă/ǒ (IPA [æ/a]) – ex, hat vs hot

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Student Name: _____ Student ID Number: _____

Instructor: _____ Level/Class: _____ Date: _____

Section 0: New Information

For listening and video links, go to Tinyurl <https://tinyurl.com/SDLA-Pronunciation>. Find your SDLA number on the left and all the resources to finish your SDLA will be on the right.

Watch the video. Pay attention to the mouth movements of Jessica and Manny as they battle with ă/ǒ vowel sounds. Then write ALL of the words with these vowel sounds from the beginning of the video until the end.

Turn on captions if you want to see the words. 

Here are some more words with the ă/ǒ sounds. Listen and repeat them.

YouTube Search



Short 'a' & 'o' - The Big Face Face-Off (The Electric Company)

ă - hat

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

ǒ - hot

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Answers are on the last page ☺

collar

laptop

chocolates

father

channel

chickenpox

vaccine

teapot

extract



How does your mouth move for ă?

How does your mouth move for ǒ?

Language Learning Center

Self-Directed Learning Activities

Section 1: Listening

Listen to these sentences. Then, circle the words in each sentence that the speaker mispronounces. Write the words that you heard below the mispronounced words. This is also a review of SDLAs P01 and P02 sounds. You will hear words with ĭ, ē, ā, and ě sounds in addition to ǎ and ǒ.

“pippy”

1. The **peppy** puppy ate the poppies in Mrs. Lee’s green garden.
2. The big black bug bled black blood.
3. He keeps his money in a sock underneath his bed for emergencies.
4. John went shopping and spent a lot of money on his daughter’s birthday gift.
5. The reporter’s name is Jan. She talked at length about the recent changes with immigration.

Section 2: Repetition

*On your cell phone, record yourself reading the sentences from Section 1 correctly. Save it. Listen with your eyes closed. Can you understand what you said? Which words are difficult to understand? **Write them here.***



Optional: Record a second time the correct sentences. Listen with your eyes closed. You can ask a friend to listen with their eyes closed. Can they understand every word? Write down which ones your friend could not understand. Practice those words more.

Section 3: Senses

Part 1. *We are working on the differences between the two lax (short) vowels ǎ/ǒ. In Section 0, you listened to and repeated some words. How did you feel your mouth move? If you said **sideways** for ǎ, you are right! In addition, when we make the ǒ, our mouths move **wide open**.*

Visit the Section 3 video links. There you can see videos with the mouth movements for each of the sounds. Click on the play button to hear and see the way the words are pronounced.

ă is a **front** vowel

ǒ is a **back** vowel

Part 2. Record yourself reading these words. Make sure you feel your mouth move sideways ă and wide open for ǒ.

blonde gassed laughed popular novel pallet rock concert collapse

Section 4: Conversation Practice

Read the conversation below. Are there any words you don't understand? Look them up in a dictionary. Practice reading this to yourself. Practice both as the "Grandma" and as "you." You will practice this conversation with the tutor later. Concentrate on pronunciation of the individual words.

You Hi grandma, I've got some great news!

Grandma Oh, hi _____. What did you say?

You I have some news to tell you grandma. My company is sending me to Europe!

Grandma Oh, that's very nice. Where?

You To France, to Paris. I'm leaving next week.

Grandma Oh, so soon? When?

You Next Saturday. I want to come see you tomorrow.

Language Learning Center

Self-Directed Learning Activities

Section 5: Student Self-Assessment

Now that you've completed sections 1 through 4, rate how well you can do the following. Put an "X" in the box matching your self-assessment. This will help the tutor assist you better.

Self-Assessment

Pronunciation Skill	I can't do this YET.	I can do this WITH some help.	I think I usually can do this WITHOUT help.	I can TEACH this to a classmate.
I can hear the difference between <i>ǎ</i> and <i>õ</i>				
I can identify the differences in mouth movement for <i>ǎ</i> and <i>õ</i> .				
I know some words I need to keep practicing.				

Good job!

Now go to the LLC ESL Tutoring Website
www.mtsac.edu/lc/passportrewards/lletutoring
 to make an appointment to see a tutor.

Optional while you wait for a tutor:

Go to "American Speech Sounds" on a lab computer. You can work more on your pronunciation of *ǎ* and *õ*. Click on "AE (black)" for *ǎ* and "A(olive)" for *õ* from the drop down menu.

Section 6: Practice with a Tutor!

After completing the self-assessment, meet with a tutor and give this completed SDLA to them. To make sure you understand this activity, the tutor will review your answers and recordings with you. They will also help you practice the conversation in Section 4. After you have finished, the tutor will provide you with feedback in the following areas:

Grading Rubric

Area of Focus	1 Point	3 Points	5 Points
Content	Learner usually does not provide enough information in answers.	Learner provides all necessary information in answers some of the time.	Learner provides <u>extra</u> information in answers most of the time.

Area of Focus	1 Point	3 Points	5 Points
Skill: ă/ǒ (IPA [æ/a])	Learner usually cannot hear and speak the target sounds correctly.	Learner can hear and speak the target sounds correctly some of the time.	Learner can hear and speak the target sounds correctly most of the time.
Overall Pronunciation	Learner’s speaking is unclear and often requires listener effort.	Learner’s speaking is generally clear but requires listener effort sometimes.	Learner’s speaking is clear and smooth and requires a little listener effort.

Total points: ____/15

***Students must receive at least 10 points to move on.**

Tutor Recommendations:

Congratulations! Move on
 Student has successfully completed this SDLA and is ready to continue to the another SDLA.

Repeat
 Student hasn’t yet mastered this SDLA. It is recommended that the student complete it again.

Tutor Signature: _____

Date: _____

Section 1 Answers: ă – Manny, trap, catch, can, bats, pack, rats ǒ –off, shot, top, flocks, lobster