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Lesson 4

/ɛ/ as in bed

Test Yourself
What do you already know about spelling words with the /ɛ/sound? Do this self-check.

A. Hear the Sound. Which picture in each pair has the keyword sound /ɛ/. Circle it. (3pts.)
Ask a native speaker to read the word pairs or use dictionary.com with audio for word items.

pepper  paper  pen  pin  bet  butt

Other minimal-pair words are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>/ɛ/</th>
<th>/ɛ/</th>
<th>/ɛ/</th>
<th>/ɪ/</th>
<th>/ʌ/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bet</td>
<td>bait</td>
<td>bet</td>
<td>bit</td>
<td>bet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>met</td>
<td>Kate</td>
<td>desk</td>
<td>disc</td>
<td>net</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beck</td>
<td>bake</td>
<td>wet</td>
<td>wit</td>
<td>beg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pest</td>
<td>paste</td>
<td>check</td>
<td>chick</td>
<td>pen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>met</td>
<td>mitt</td>
<td>beck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pen</td>
<td>pain</td>
<td>send</td>
<td>sinned</td>
<td>dead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>letter</td>
<td>later</td>
<td>better</td>
<td>bitter</td>
<td>when</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Identify the Sound. Circle only the words with the keyword sound /ɛ/. (11 pts)

weight  wet  chick  check  butter  twelve

says  feather  break  can-dy  nut  baggage

net  meal  wing  friends  per cent  neighbors
Lesson 4

/ɛ/ as in bed

C. Find and Correct. Mark ✓ if all the words in the sentence are correct. Mark ✗ if one is incorrect and write the correct spelling on the blank. (6pts)

1. _______ Exercise is imporant to staying helthy
2. _______ Each morning after breckfast, Ed and Sue walk their dog.
3. _______ All of them are in xcellent shape.
4. _______ Ed swims for twunty minutes afterwards.
5. _______ She does sit-ups and stretches.
6. _______ Afterwards they go home and get redy for work.

D. Complete the Sentence. Use the correct spelling for the e /ɛ/ sound. (10pts.)

1. Not __veryone likes to exercise.
2. But even t__n minutes a day can make a difference.
3. It h___ps to have a fr___nd or partner when you exercise.
4. M__ny people give up and give ___xcuses.
5. You have to make a plan and move ah___d with it.
6. After a short time you will alr___dy feel b__tter.
7. Then you will want to exercise ag___n.

Score__/30 A score greater than 90% (27/30) is good, less than 90% needs work.

Use the Word List at the end of this lesson to mark or collect difficult-to-spell words.
Lesson 4

/ɛ/ as in bed

Common Spelling Patterns

4.1  eC CeC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>get</th>
<th>let</th>
<th>jet</th>
<th>met</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>red</td>
<td>led</td>
<td>fed</td>
<td>Ted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>then</td>
<td>men</td>
<td>pen</td>
<td>when</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bent</td>
<td>cent</td>
<td>sent</td>
<td>went</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>left</td>
<td>best</td>
<td>end</td>
<td>wreck</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>wed·ding</th>
<th>less·on</th>
<th>pen·cil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sev·en</td>
<td>bet·ter</td>
<td>west·en</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>guess²</td>
<td>guess²</td>
<td>quest·tion³</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

e /ɛ/ occurs before a consonant or between consonants in a stressed syllable.

Also see e in pretty, England /ɪ/ pig (6.3)

1 wr is pronounced /t/rwекк /rek/.
2 gue is /gɛ/ as in guest /gɛst/.
   ge is /dʒɛ/ as in gesture /dʒɛs tʃer/.
3 qu is pronounced /kw/ as in quick /kwɪk/.

4.2  CeAC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>dead</th>
<th>head</th>
<th>lead</th>
<th>bread</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>al·read·y</td>
<td>breath</td>
<td>feather</td>
<td>read⁴</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>weap·ons</td>
<td>thread</td>
<td>spread</td>
<td>dread</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>weath·er</td>
<td>heav·y</td>
<td>health</td>
<td>wealth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ea occurs before one or more consonants in a syllable.

Also see e in eat, seat, teacher /i/ tea (3.3) and great, steak, break /ɛ/ ēак (1.7).

⁴ read /rɛd/ past; read /rid/ present tense

4.3  Others

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a·gain</th>
<th>a·against</th>
<th>said</th>
<th>says</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>eve·ry⁴</td>
<td>friend</td>
<td>any</td>
<td>ma·ny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leop·ard⁵</td>
<td>jeop·ar·dy⁶</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These uncommon spellings occur in commonly used words. Their pronunciations have changed over time, but their spellings have remained unchanged.

(You can find their origins or word histories in a dictionary online.)

⁴ v occurs at the end of a word as ve (e.g., eve, leave, give, have)
⁵ from Greek origin
⁶ from French origin
A. **Spell the Word.** Fill in the spelling e, ea or others for the sound /ɛ/.

1. d__sk
2. br__d
3. b__ll
4. qu__stion
5. w__ther
6. br__kfast
7. __mpty
8. __lephant
9. p__ts
10. r__ctangle
11. h__lmet
12. __gg
13. booksh__lf
14. t__nnis
15. ch__ss
16. tw__nty
17. n__cklace
18. c__lery
19. ch_f
20. w_dding
A. Spell the Word. (continued)

21. __ggplant
22. dr__ss
23. t__xing
24. t_levision
25. thr__d
26. b__nch
27. st__ps
28. l__mon
29. f__nce
30. __dit
31. p__lican
32. ___lbow
33. d__d
34. ___levator
35. t_lescope
36. M__xico
37. sw__ter
38. l__tter
39. ___nvelope
40. pr__sent
Lesson 4

/ɛ/ as in bed

B. Complete the Word. Fill in the spelling e, ea or others for the sound /ɛ/.

Verbs

1. __xcuse
2. __ducate
3. l__nd
4. rem__mber
5. exc__pt
6. acc__pt
7. t__lephone
8. m__ssage
9. exp__ct
10. requ__st
11. __xercise
12. m___sure
13. exc__l
14. recomm__nd
15. sp__nd
16. m__ntion

Adjectives

17. __xcellent
18. sp__cial
19. n__cessary
20. h___lthy
21. t__chnical
22. h__vy
23. h____enly
24. g__neral

C. Complete the Sentence. Fill in the spelling e, ea or others for the sound /ɛ/.

1. We are having a couple of g__sts over W__dnesday morning.
2. We are going to make h__lthful br__kfast for th__m.
3. __verything will be fr__sh and will sm__ll and taste delicious.
4. We have to ch__ck our ingredients before we begin to cook.
5. We need only t__n not tw__lve __ggs.
6. We will also need some v__getables—carrots, c__lery and peas.
7. We'll need some spices too—salt, p__pper and or__gano.
8. We'll also need to slice the br__d and make some toast.
9. We shouldn't forg__t to make some coffee.
10. It will be w__nderful to w__lcome our fr__nds ag__n.

D. Find and Correct. Underline incorrectly spelled words with the /ɛ/ sound. Write the correct spellings above them. (5)

Buying organic fruits and vegetables is a better choice. First, they have far fewer chimical pesticides (insect poison). Sicond, they are not genetically modified. Next, they are allowed to mature or ripen fully. Finally, they have a shorter shelf life. In other words, instead of sitting around and getting old on a store shelf, they are sold when freash or best. Howuver, you pay more for organically produced food. Even so, putting your helth first is best.
Lesson 4

/ɛ/ as in bed

Pronunciation Variations

4.4 ge- or -dge

| gen·er·al | gen·der | ges·ture |
| ma·gen·ta | le·gend | sug·gest |
edge    | ledge    | hedge    | wedge |
ge at the beginning of a syllable and -dge at the end of a syllable is pronounced /dʒɛ/.

4.5 gue or gh

| guess | guest |
| Ghent | spa·ghet·ti | ghet·to |
gu and gh at the beginning of a syllable is pronounced /g/, "hard g". Also see gue in argue /yu/ cute (9.13).

4.5 e & u before r

| ver·y | cer·e·mon·y | A·mer·i·ca |
| sin·cer·i·ty | ster·e·o | nu·mer·i·cal |
| ber·ry | fer·ry | mer·ry¹ | er·ror |
| bur·y | bur·i·al |
er and err are usually pronounced /er/, but not in zero /ˈziər ʊə/, her /hɜr/, or sergeant /ˈsɜr dʒænt/.
¹ pronounced the same by some speakers: Mary /ˈmɛər i/ marry /ˈmɛr.i/ merry /ˈmɛr.i/.

E. Spell the Word. Fill in the spelling e, ea or others for the sound /ɛ/.

1. g__ntlemen
2. b__rial
3. spagh_tti
4. mag__nta
5. h__dge
6. f__rry
7. b_rrry
8. m_rrry
Lesson 4

/ɛ/ as in bed

F. Complete the Word. Use the correct spelling for the e /ɛ/ sound in these words

1. t__rrify  2. g__rund  3. c__remony  4. num__rical
5. imp__rative  6. sinc__rity  7. m__rit  8. v__rify
13. exp__riment  14. st__reo  15. Am__rica  16. t__rrible

G. Find the Sound. Find and underline the words with the /ɛr/sound. (5)

The Fourth of July is a cherished American Holiday. Each year, people have barbecues in the parks or backyards. They invite friends who bring food such as soft drinks chips and salads. Summer desserts such as peach and blackberry pie are favorites. Outside, you can hear stereos blasting and people playing games and having a good time. It is a time for fun and merriment. At night, people go to city parks, lakes and seashores to watch fireworks.

Word Forms

H. Add the suffixes. Double the consonant for verbs ending in e + p, b, d, g, t, n or m.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>C-s</th>
<th>CC-ed</th>
<th>CC-ing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. step</td>
<td>steps</td>
<td>stepped</td>
<td>stepping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. web</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. wed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. beg</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. pet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. pen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*irregular past forms get and set

I. Complete the Suffix. Add the suffix -ed or -ing. Double the consonant if necessary. (9)

Artie was constantly beg__ his parents for a dog. He was expect__ dog care to be easy, just pet__ and playing with it. The day his puppy arrived, it began wet__ the carpet, crying at night, chewing on everything and get__ in trouble. So Arthur started check__ websites for solutions. He began let__ the dog out hourly and spend___ time teaching it basic commands—sit, stay and lie down. As the dog grew, he took it for walks. Soon, the dog stopped wreck__ things and became the pet that Artie had always wanted.
J. **Exchange the sound.** Change the word with the sound of /ɛ/ to /ɪ/ and /ɛ/ to /ɪ/.

/ɛ/ → /ɪ/ → /ɪ/

1. bet → beet → bit
2. hell → _______ → _______
3. set → _______ → _______
4. check → _______ → _______
5. sell → _______ → _______
6. fell → _______ → _______
7. ten → _______ → _______
8. net → _______ → _______
Lesson 4

/ɛ/ as in bed

K. Writing. Write a description about one of the pictures. Tell what is happening, for example, who, what, where, why, when and maybe how. Underline words with the /ɛ/sound.

"A Well Deserved Rest"

"Checkmate!"

hammock (n.) a hanging bed made of cord or canvas that is tied to a pole or tree. 
checkmate (n.) a situation or position in which the opponent's king cannot move in the game of chess.
Lesson 4

/ɛ/ as in bed

Test Yourself (post-test)
Test yourself again to see if you have made progress from when you began this lesson.

A. Identify the Sound. Underline the words with the /ɛ/ sound in a stressed syllable. (13pts.)

Getting help with homework is easy with the Internet. It holds a wealth of information. Thousands of educational resources are available online with everything from library databases to dictionaries and encyclopedias. A person can request information by posting messages on local networks or by chatting live with professionals–directly! A student can complete his/her homework without ever leaving home.

B. Find and Correct. Mark ✔ if all the words in the sentence are correct. Mark ✗ if one is incorrect and write the correct spelling on the blank. (4pts)

1. Finding answers to questions online is not especially hard.
2. You can enter keywords into a search engine in your browser.
3. It will return a number of websites with general information.
4. The returns will be better if you use more specific keywords.
5. Also, make sure you spell the keywords correctly.

C. Complete the paragraph. Find the misspelled word with the e /ɛ/ sound. (14 pts.)

For m__ny people, an audio book or e-book on an el__ctronic device is convenient. But for others, it is l__ss pr__ferable to having a printed book. A book has pages that you can turn, make notes on, and mark your place with. A book has a pl__sant paper-and-ink sm__ll. A book is something that you can put on your booksh__lf so that you can rem__mber the information you have r__d. A book is an __xcellent item to l__nd to a friend. All these things make printed books sp__cial and w__ll-liked.

Score_____/30

A score > 90% (27/30) is good, < 90% needs work.

Use the word list on the next page to make note of difficult-to-spell words.
### Word List

#### 4.1 
**before one or more consonants in a stressed syllable**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Word</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>address (v.)</td>
<td>correct</td>
<td>entrance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adolescent</td>
<td>crept</td>
<td>epidemic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adventure</td>
<td>debt</td>
<td>err</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>affection</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>error</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aggressive</td>
<td>deck</td>
<td>Eskimo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>altogether</td>
<td>defective</td>
<td>especially</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>antisepctic</td>
<td>defend</td>
<td>essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrest</td>
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<tr>
<td>attempt</td>
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<td>help</td>
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<td>compel</td>
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<td>herself</td>
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<td>connect</td>
<td>engine</td>
<td>hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>content</td>
<td>enter</td>
<td>however</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Lesson 4

/ɛ/ as in bed

| remember | September | strength | them | welt |
| rent | session | stretch | themselves | went |
| rental | set | success | then | wept |
| request | settle | suggest | together | west |
| resident | seven | suspend | trend | western |
| respect | sex | swept | twelfth | wet |
| rest | shelf | technique | twelve | when |
| revenue | shell | Ted | twenty | whether |
| second | shelter | telegram | undress | wreck |
| secretary | sincerity | telegraph | unless | wreckage |
| selection | sketch | television | vegetable | wrench |
| self | slept | tell | velvet | yellow |
| selfish | smell | teller | verify | yes |
| sell | spaghetti | temporary | web | yesterday |
| semester | special | ten | wed | yet |
| send | specialist | tense | wedding | yourself |
| sense | spell | tension | wedge | yourselves |
| sent | spend | tent | Wednesday<sup>1</sup> | present |
| sentence | spent | terrible | welcome | |
| sentimental | stem | test | welfare | <sup>1</sup>/wɛnz-ə/ |
| separate (Adj) | stereo | theft | well | |

### 4.2 ɛə between two consonants in a stressed syllable

| ahead | dread | instead | read<sup>2</sup> | treachery |
| already | endeavor | jealous | ready | tread |
| bread | feather | leather | spread | treasure |
| breakfast | head | meadow | steady | treasury |
| breast | health | meant | stealthy | wealth |
| breath | healthy | measure | sweat | wealthy |
| cleanser | healthful | peasanit | sweater | weapon |
| dead | heather | pleasant | thread | weather |
| deaf | heaven | pleasure | threat | |
| death | heavy | realm | threaten | |

### 4.3 Uncommon Spellings

| a | anyway | ai | again | ay | guest |
| any | anyhow | | says | | jeopardy |
| many | anyplace | against | | others | leopard |
| anyone | anything | said | | friend | |
| anybody | many | | | guess | |
Lesson 4

/ɛ/ as in bed

Answers

Pretest

A. Hear the Sound /ɛ/. pepper/paper, pen/pin, bet/butt

B. Identify the Sound /ɛ/. (11)

C. Find and Correct. (6)
   1. __ X__ Exercise is imporant to staying healthy.
   2. __ X__ Each morning after breckfast, Ed and Sue walk their dog.
   3. __ X__ All of them are in excellent shape.
   4. __ ✔__ Ed swims for twenty minutes afterwards.
   5. __ X__ She does sit-ups and stretches.
   6. __ X__ Afterwards they go home and get ready for work.

D. Complete the Sentence. (10)
   1. Not everyone likes to exercise.
   2. But even ten minutes a day can make a difference.
   3. It helps to have a friend or partner when you exercise.
   4. Many people give up and give excuses.
   5. You have to make a plan and move ahead with it.
   6. After a short time you will already feel better.
   7. Then you will want to exercise again.

Common Spelling Patterns /ɛ/ ........................................................................................................... 3

A. Spell the Word. ................................................................................................................................. 4
   1. desk 2. bread 3. bell 4. question
   5. weather 6. breakfast 7. empty 8. elephant
   9. pets 10. rectangle 11. helmet 12. egg
   13. detective 14. tennis 15. chess 16. twenty
   17. necklace 18. celery 19. chef 20. wedding
   21. eggplant 22. dress 23. texting 24. television
   25. thread 26. bench 27. steps 28. lemon
   29. fence 30. edit 31. pelican 32. elbow
   33. dead 34. elevator 35. telescope 36. Mexico
   37. sweater 38. letter 39. envelope 40. present

B. Complete the Word. ......................................................................................................................... 6

VERBS
   1  excuse  2  educate  3  lend  4  remember
   5  except  6  accept  7  telephone  8  message
   9  expect  10  request  11  exercise  12  measure
   13  excel  14  recommend  15  spend  16  mention

ADJECTIVES
   17  excellent  18  special  19  necessary  20  healthy
   21  technical  22  heavy  23  heavenly  24  general

C. Complete the Sentence. ..................................................................................................................... 6
   1. We are having a couple of guests over Wednesday morning.
   2. We are going to make healthful breakfast for them.
   3. Everything will be fresh and will smell and taste delicious.
   4. We have to check our ingredients before we begin to cook.
   5. We need only ten not twelve eggs.
   6. We will also need some vegetables—carrots, celery and peas.
Lesson 4

/ɛ/ as in bed

7. We'll need some spices too—salt, pepper and oregano.
8. We'll also need to slice the bread and make some toast.
9. We shouldn't forget to make some coffee.
10. It will be wonderful to welcome our friends again.

D. Find and Correct. ........................................................................................................ 6

Buying organic fruits and vegetables is a better choice. First, they are less contaminated by chemical pesticides (insect poison). Second, they are not genetically modified. Next, they are allowed to mature or ripen fully. Finally, they have a shorter shelf life. In other words, instead of sitting around and getting old on a store shelf, they are sold when fresh or best. However, you will pay more for organically produced food. Even so, putting your health first is the best option.

E. Spell the Word. ........................................................................................................... 7

1. gentlemen 2. burial 3. spaghetti 4. magenta
5. hedge 6. ferry 7. berry 8. merry

F. Complete the Word. ................................................................................................... 7

1. terrify 2. gerund 3. ceremony 4. numerical
5. imperative 6. sincerity 7. merit 8. verify

G. Find the Sound. (5) ...................................................................................................... 8

The Fourth of July is a cherished American Holiday. Each year, people have barbecues in the parks or backyards. They invite friends who bring food such as soft drinks chips and salads. Summer desserts such as peach and blackberry pie are favorites. Outside, you can hear stereos blasting and people playing games and having a good time. It is a time for fun and merriment. At night, people go to city parks, lakes and seashores to watch fireworks.

H. Add the Suffix. ............................................................................................................ 8

1. step steps stepped stepping
2. web webs webbed webbing
3. wed wedded wedding
4. beg begged begging
5. pet petted petting
6. pen penned penying

I. Complete the Suffix. (9) ............................................................................................. 9

Artie was constantly begging his parents for a dog. He was expecting dog care to be easy—just petting and playing with it. The day his puppy arrived, it began wetting the carpet, crying at night, chewing on everything and getting in trouble. So Arthur started checking websites for solutions. He began letting the dog out hourly and spending time teaching it basic commands—sit, stay and lie down. As the dog grew, he took it for walks. Soon, the dog stopped wrecking things and became the pet that Artie had always wanted.

J. Sound Exchange. ....................................................................................................... 9

1. bet beet bit
2. hell heel hill
3. set seat sit
4. check cheek chick
5. sell seal sill
6. fell feel fill
7. ten teen tin
8. net neat knit

K. Write a short description. .......................................................................................... 10

(Answers will vary.)

L. Writing. Write a short story about the picture. (Answers will vary.) .......................... 11
Lesson 4

/ɛ/ as in bed

Test Yourself ........................................................................................................................................... 12
A Identify the Sound /ɛ/.
Getting help with homework is easy with the Internet. It holds a wealth of information. Thousands of educational resources are available online with everything from library databases to dictionaries and encyclopedias. A person can request information by posting messages on local networks or by chatting live with professionals—directly! A student can complete his or her homework without ever leaving home.

B Find and Correct.
1. __ × ___ Finding answers to questions online is not especially hard.
2. __ ✓ ___ You can enter keywords into a search engine in your browser.
3. __ × ___ It will return a number of websites with general information.
4. __ × ___ The returns will be better if you use more specific keywords.
5. __ × ___ Also, make sure you spell the keywords correctly.

C Complete the Paragraph.
For many people, an audio book or e-book on an electronic device is convenient, but less preferable to having a printed book. A book has pages that you can turn, make notes on, and mark your place with. A book has a pleasant paper-and-ink smell. A book is something that you can put on your bookshelf so that you can remember the information you have read. A book is an excellent item to lend to a friend. All these things make printed books special and well-liked.

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