



Name: _____

The Schwa Sound

A **schwa** sound is when a vowel is pronounced "uh" or "er" instead of with its short or long sound. For example:

seldom . . . we say "seldum" not "seldOm"
 doctor . . . we say "docter" not "doctOr"



The **schwa** sound can make words difficult to spell because it's not always clear which vowel is making the **schwa** sound.

In each of the following words, an unstressed vowel makes a **schwa** sound ("uh" or "er"). In dictionary pronunciation guides, the **schwa** sound is represented by this symbol: ə. Write each of the words below and replace the ə symbol with the vowel that makes the **schwa** sound in that word.

directə

visə

əgain

əgree

əlarm

chinə

sensə

əccasion

antennə

əther

dinəsaur

directə

alfalfə

histəry

sailə

Now, check your work! Look up each word in the dictionary.