

ICANSPELL LESSON

1/06

On this ICANSPELL WORDS list, there are more short **a** words. This means the **a** in every word sounds like the **a** you hear when you say "bat."

The **a** is a vowel. Like all vowels (**a e i o u** and **y** sometimes) you open your mouth and pronounce it at the back of your throat. Any letter that you pronounce at the front of your mouth by closing it in some way is not a vowel—it is a consonant.

In a one-vowel word that ends in a consonant, the vowel will almost always say its short sound. If you see a short new word with a consonant at the end, try this idea. Count the vowels—if there is just one, say the vowel the short way.

On a piece of paper draw three really thin columns, like this: | | | all the way down the page. Print your spelling words in the columns, making sure the **a** is in the middle one, like this: |w|a|x|. Colour all the vowels yellow. Now take a ruler and cover all the letters left of the **a**'s, and read the new words. Do they all sound like they have short **a**'s?

ICANSPELL WORDS

1. bat
2. fan
3. gas
4. jam
5. mad
6. mat
7. nap
8. pal
9. pat
10. rat
11. tan
12. tap
13. tax
14. wax

ICANSPELL TEST

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____