8A   Schwa bingo

Activity type: Pronunciation – Bingo game – Groups

Aim: To practise recognising the schwa sound in weak forms of words like *of*, *a*, *the*, *do* ...

Language: The schwa /ə/ sound – Use at any point from Pronunciation 8.1.

Preparation: Make one copy of the worksheet for every four learners and cut up the worksheets along the dotted lines. Prepare a list of sentences containing one or two examples of weak form pronunciation of the words listed in stage 1 below.

Time: 15–20 minutes

1   Write the following words on the board and drill the weak form pronunciation, giving an example of each word, on its own and in a sentence: *of, a, the, can, do, and, you, to, but, for, are, have, from, an, has, at.*

2   When you have drilled the pronunciation of all the weak forms ask learners to identify what they all have in common. Elicit the fact that they all have weak forms containing a schwa /ə/ sound.

3   Give each learner a copy of a grid. Ask them to fill in the remaining three squares using three words from the board which are not already in their grid.

4   Explain that you are going to play *Bingo* and that you will read out a list of short sentences (see below for examples), each one containing at least one of the words on the board. Ask learners to listen carefully to each sentence and identify which of the words on the board appears in each one. If the word they hear is one of the words they have written in their grid, they should cross it out. The game continues until one learner has crossed out three words which form a line, either vertical, horizontal or diagonal. This learner shouts 'Bingo!' and is the winner.

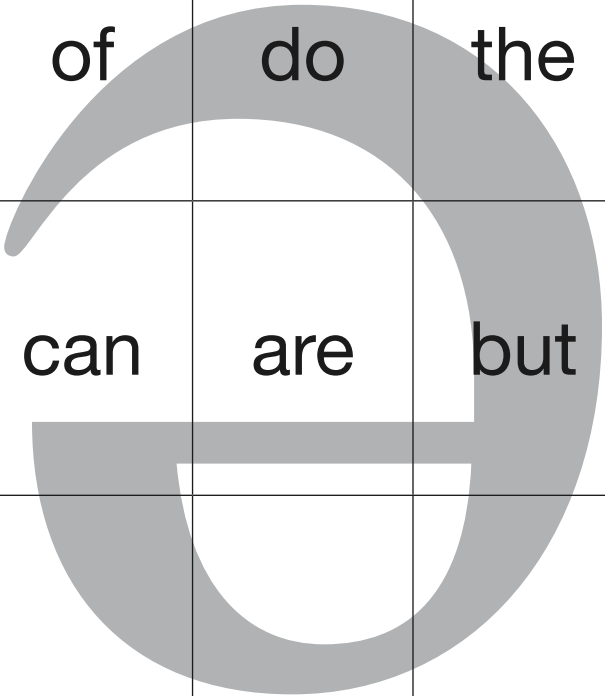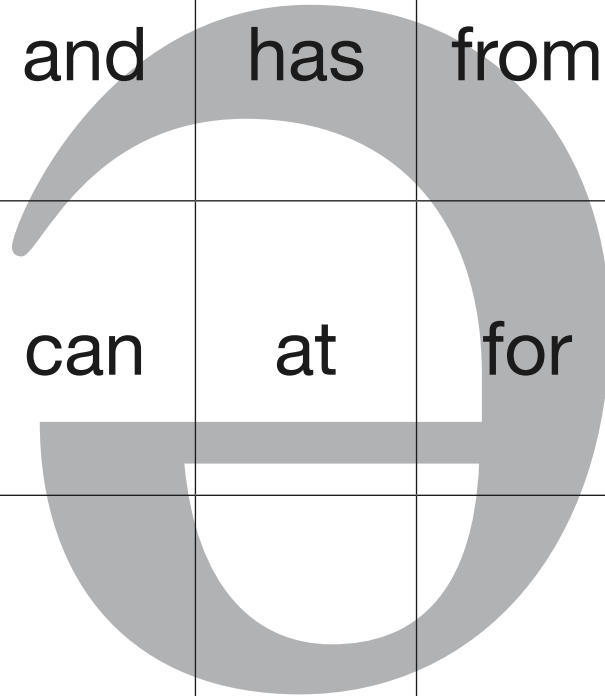| Example sentences (with weak forms underlined):	
Where <u>do</u> they live?	John <u>has</u> got two children.
Juan is <u>from</u> Spain.	He <u>can</u> play <u>the</u> piano.
I'm going <u>to</u> work.	<u>Have</u> you got <u>a</u> pen?

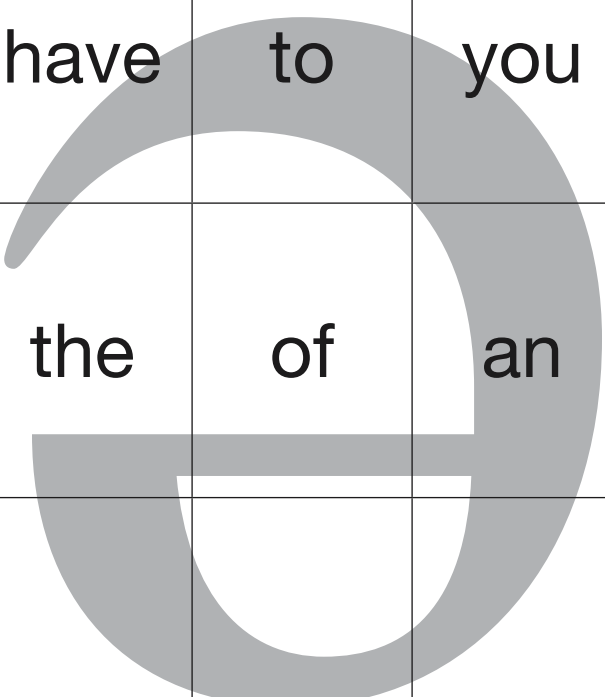| Extension |
|---|
| When they have finished, learners can prepare sentences of their own containing a schwa sound and play the game in groups of three or four. To do this, you will need to provide them with extra copies of the grids. |

of	do	the
can	are	but

and	has	from
can	at	for

have	to	you
the	of	an

are	for	to
do	has	at