



An Animated and Narrated Glossary of
Terms used in Linguistics
presents

Schwa



schwa

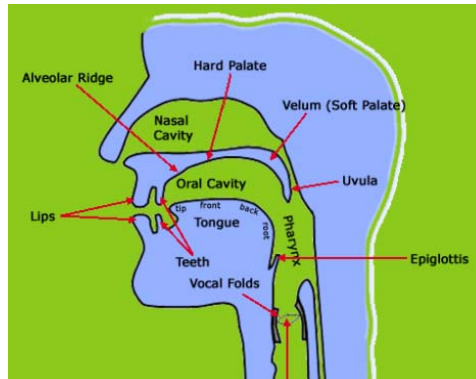
[ə]

This is the symbol called the “**schwa**”,
pronounced “sh..wa” as one syllable.

It is often used as a phonetic symbol.

The schwa sound

As a phonetic symbol, [ə] is a vowel articulated with the tongue body in a **neutral position**.



The tongue body is **neither retracted, nor fronted, nor raised, nor lowered**.

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Further reading

Pullum, Geoffrey K. and William A. Ladusaw (1996) *Phonetic Symbol Guide*, 2nd edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Wee, Lian-Hee, Frederick Chew, Alfred Low and Lin Lin Ma (2005) *Tickle Your Tongue: An Introductory Reference to Learning Phonetics* [software]. CDTL, National University of Singapore.

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The End

Wee, Lian-Hee and Winnie H.Y. Cheung (2009)
An animated and narrated glossary of terms used in Linguistics. Hong
Kong Baptist University.