

EXACT TEKS WORDING (FROM TEA)

“demonstrate and apply spelling knowledge by spelling multisyllabic words with multiple sound-spelling patterns”

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO ME?

Some words follow a special spelling pattern.

The schwa is the soft uh sound in an unstressed syllable, as in the a in about.

Study the pattern so you can spell the word from memory.

THE SPELLING RULE

Schwa in unstressed syllables

about pencil wagon sofa lemon animal
banana problem cabin seven

The schwa is the soft uh sound in an unstressed syllable, as in the a in about.

WHERE THEY APPEAR: “The lemon and the banana sat on the sofa.”

This deck teaches **Schwa in unstressed syllables** across the five RPLD thinking levels: **NOTICE** → **CHOOSE** → **SHOW** → **OWN** → **DEFEND**.

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

"I can notice the pattern."

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Notice the pattern.

Notice the spelling pattern in the word.

about = a + bout

I CAN I can notice the pattern in a word.

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

"I can choose the correct spelling."

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Choose the correct spelling.

Which spelling is correct?

pencil • pencil • pensil

I CAN I can choose the correctly spelled word.

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

"I can show the rule with a word."

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Show the rule.

Build or spell the word.

wag + on = _____

I CAN I can build the word correctly.

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

"I can own the rule with a new word."

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Own the rule.

Build a new word on your own.

lem + on = _____

I CAN I can spell a new word on my own.

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

"I can explain and transfer the rule."

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Explain and transfer.

Explain the pattern, then spell one word of your own.

"The animal hid in the cabin near the wagon," she said.

I CAN I can explain the pattern and use a word in my own writing.

Your turn to spell.

Build each word, then use one in a sentence about the reading.

a + bout → _____ **pen + cil** → _____ **wag + on** → _____ **lem + on** → _____
prob + lem → _____

I CAN I can spell these words on my own.

Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE

about = a + bout.

CHOOSE

pencil is correct.

SHOW

wag + on = wagon.

OWN

lem + on = lemon.

DEFEND

Answers vary; a correct student word might be pencil, wagon, or sofa.

YOUR TURN

about, pencil, wagon, lemon, problem

READ THIS SENTENCE.

Each choice is one way to spell the same word.

Which word is spelled correctly?

A pencil

B pencil

C pensil

D pincel

The answer is **A**.

A pencil · Correct. The schwa sound is spelled with an i in the last syllable.

B pencil · Spells the schwa with e.

C pensil · Spells the c sound with s.

D pincel · Changes the first vowel to i.