Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation on Fluent American. My name is Geoff. Today, we’re looking at the / ɛ/ sound. Before we begin, some standard notes: to really study pronunciation, please repeat the sounds with me as you listen. I even suggest recording yourself so you can see how you sound, if you are able. Alright, let’s get started.

To make the / ɛ/ sound, your mouth needs to be open. Your tongue will be in the middle of your mouth. The tip of your tongue is near the middle of your teeth. The back of your tongue is a little higher.

To write this sound, there are two main ways.

The first is to use the letter *E,* such as in “less”, “best”, and “enter”.

The other is to use the letters *EA,* like for the words “measurement”, “dead”, or the past participle “read”.

Again, “less”, “best”, “enter”, “measurement”, “dead”, “read”.

Let’s look at some sample word pairs:

well fed/ get rest/ better led/ red pen/ best measurement/ heavy head/ never spent/ next general

Now, some example sentences:

The men who read the book said it was excellent.

To get better, stay well fed and rest in bed.

I never spent so much to get the best measurement.

She edited the essay in red pen.

Alright, that’s it for today! Again, record yourself. See if you can pronounce the words like me, and we’ll practice again next time. Thanks for listening!