Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation on Fluent American. My name is Geoff. Today, we’re looking at the /ae/ 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 /ae/ sound, your mouth needs to be a little open. The tip of your tongue is down, so is the back of your tongue. The middle of your is a little high. There should be space between your tongue and the top of your mouth. Your lips will be a little straight. There is only one way to write this sound.

Use the letter *A*, as in these words: “past”, “man”, and “sat”. Let’s look at some sample word pairs:

fast answer/ past fashion/ black cat/ bad apple/ fat chance/ can’t act/ at bat/ last package

Now, some example sentences:

The black cat was too fast to catch.

The last package was left at the back door.

There’s a fat chance the man will get his backpack.

A bad apple gives fast answers in math class.

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!