

Re: Use of the long "a" in pronouncing the article

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Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2006-04/msg01228.html>

- *From:* "Joseph W. Murphy" <jwmurphy700@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 30 Apr 2006 16:01:02 GMT
-

On Sun, 30 Apr 2006 12:33:24 GMT, Peter T. Daniels wrote:

Joseph W. Murphy wrote:

On Sun, 30 Apr 2006 00:20:25 GMT, Peter T. Daniels wrote:

Joseph W. Murphy wrote:

On Sat, 29 Apr 2006 21:15:46 GMT, Alan wrote:

"Joseph W. Murphy" wrote

I was
listening to
Bush speak
(or rather
read) a
statement a
few minutes
ago. He
pronounced
the English
indefinite
article "a"
as long and
not
like
"uh" which
is how it's
always done
here.

It sounds

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kind of
stilted when
Bush
pronounces
it that way.
And it
certainly
doesn't
sound
Texan.

Is there
anyplace in
the U.S.
where the
indefinite
article is
ordinarily
pronounced
long?

I've noticed that it's often
pronounced that way by
kids learning to read.

Right. I have too. And I've heard some
people do it for emphasis or
contrast. But it always seemed stilted to me
even when used that way.

Would you rather do a stressed shwa for emphasis? Would
you analogously
do ['Vn] rather than ['&n] for a stressed "an"?

Hmmm, let's see ... "This is A book!" "No, this is a book!"

I like the stressed schwa better. It must be the Hoosier in me.

"He stole A, not THE book." [In "... A book, not THE ...," ['@] is
better.]

"I said you could have AN apple, not THREE apples." [['@n"] is never
possible.]

You're right. I'd do it that way.

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P.S. I'm reading Franz Boas' Introduction to Handbook of American Indian Languages. Good stuff! Amazingly on the money for 1911.

Joe Murphy
Boy Linguist