

CHAPTER I: THE SHORT "A"

"A"

I. LOOSEN YOUR LIPS AND MOVE YOUR HIPS

I, II, III*

Your teacher will now play for you a nonsense song called "A Ram Sam Sam." Don't worry if you don't understand it because it doesn't mean anything. Here we go!



A RAM SAM SAM

A ram sam sam

A ram sam sam

Goolie goolie goolie goolie goolie ram sam sam

A ram sam sam

A ram sam sam

Goolie goolie goolie goolie goolie

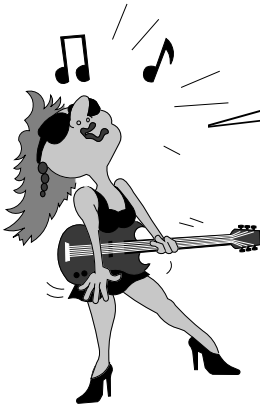
Ram sam sam

There are mainly two vowel sounds in these lyrics. Do you know what they are?



Sing along this time, and try to sound as ugly as I do—like the Wicked Witch of the West—especially on the "a ram sam sam" part!

**Level I = Beginning; Level II = Intermediate; Level III = Advanced*



Okay. Let's go through the songs again, and this time, if you feel comfortable, sing along! Snap your fingers and tap your feet if you want to! It'll help your mouth and brain remember what these words feel like.



Great job! Now let's take a closer look at the lyrics to "Barbara Ann."



Exercise 1:

I, II, III

Look at the lyrics and circle all the words that have the short "a" vowel sound, like "Ram," "Sam," and "Annie."

Exercise 2:

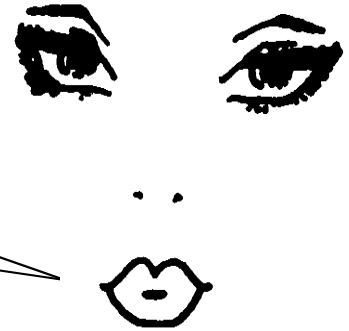
I, II, III

After you've circled all the words you think have the short "a" vowel sound, write a capital "N" above the words that are nouns (people, places, things or ideas) and a capital "V" above verbs. Remember, verbs are actions. (Hint: Ignore "and" because it's a conjunction.)

Exercise 3:

II, III

Now that you've circled all the words that have the short "a" vowel sound, let's try to write a new song by substituting in either our own short "a" words or by using words from the "Rhyming Dictionary" selection of short "a" words below. Give it a try!

**THE RHYMING DICTIONARY**

lamb	fan	can	land	man	pan	sand	tan
Dan	Pam	ham	jam	Nan	slam	wham	yam
band	chap	hat	flap	gap	cap	map	trance
clap	nap	cab	flab	gab	jab	lab	slab
tap	bat	cat	fat	latch	match	patch	bad
had	lad	mad	pad	sad	brand	catch	pass

Share your new lyrics with the class or with a partner. You're practically a songwriter!

**BARBARA**

Ba-ba-ba Ba-barbara _____

Ba-ba Ba-barbara

Barbara _____

Take my _____

Barbara _____

You got me rockin' and a-rollin'

Rockin' and a-reelin' Barbara _____

Ba-ba Ba-barbara _____

I went to a _____ lookin' for _____

I saw Barbara _____

So I thought I'd take a _____ on Barbara _____

Ba-ba Barbara _____

You got me rockin' and a-rollin'

Rockin' and a-reelin' Barbara _____

Ba-ba Ba-barbara _____

Okay. Now, let's take a closer look at the lyrics to "That'll Be the Day" and "Ramblin' Man."



THAT'LL BE THE DAY

Well, that'll be the day
 When you say goodbye
 That'll be the day
 When you make me cry
 You say you're gonna leave me,
 You know it's a lie 'cause
 That'll be the day when I die

RAMBLIN' MAN

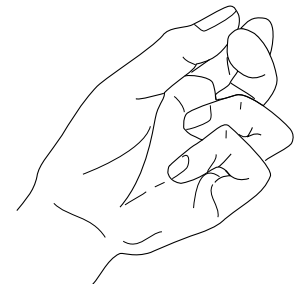
Lord, I was born a ramblin' man
 Tryin' to make a livin' and doin' the best I can
 But when it's time for leavin'
 I hope you'll understand
 I was born a ramblin' man

Exercise 4: I, II, III



Some of the words are stressed heavily. You say the words with extra strength (or volume), and you might even stay on those words longer than the other words. Put a capital "X" over the words that are heavily stressed.

Now that you have the idea of where the stress falls in the lyric—let's play the tape again and sing along. Only this time, snap your fingers or tap your pen or pencil when you come to a word that is stressed. Let's try it together and see what happens!





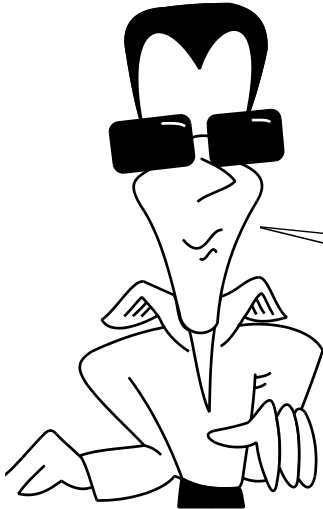
III. WHAT DOES IT MEAN, JELLY BEAN?

I, II, III

Let's complete the following sentences, just to make sure that you know what the words in the songs mean.

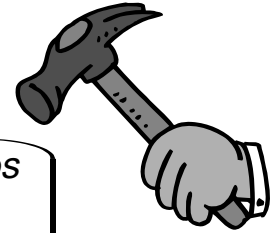
take saw was hope cry went that'll
make say leave reeling rambling rambled

1. _____ my hand, Sally Ann.
2. My wedding day will be wonderful! _____ be the best day of my life.
3. I _____ born in Mexico.
4. He _____ Barbara Ann at the dance.
5. If you take all of my money, you're going to _____ me sad.
6. If you ever _____ away, you might make me _____.
7. I didn't hear you. What did you _____?
8. Don't say you're going to _____ me, okay?
9. She was _____ on the dance floor. She got so dizzy, her head was spinning.
10. That man could never stay in one place. He was a _____ man because he _____ from one city to another.



IV. HAMMER THE GRAMMAR

I, II, III



Read the following sentences. The verbs are in the present tense. Rewrite the sentences using the past tense of the underlined verbs.

1. I see Angela. (to see)

2. I go to school (to go)

3. He thinks about Sandra. (to think)

4. I am an immigrant. (to be)



V. HUNKY DORY — FINISH THE STORY II, III

Fill in the blanks in the following story. Use words you've seen in the lyrics to the songs for the short "a" if you can. If not, use your own words.

Jose _____ to a dance. He _____
_____ for romance. He _____ Barbara Ann and
_____ her to dance. He _____ she
would say "yes."

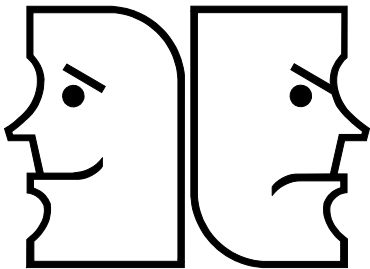
Instead, Barbara Ann said, "I thought you told me this morning that you were a _____ man. You said, 'I hope you _____. I was _____ a ramblin' man.' All I have to say to you is _____ be the day, when you say _____. You're never going to _____ me, and you're never going to _____ me cry. We are the perfect couple. We will be together forever. Come on, let's dance, Jose!" Jose was very happy. Barbara Ann and he danced all night long.

VI. WALK THE WALK AND TALK THE TALK *I, II, III*



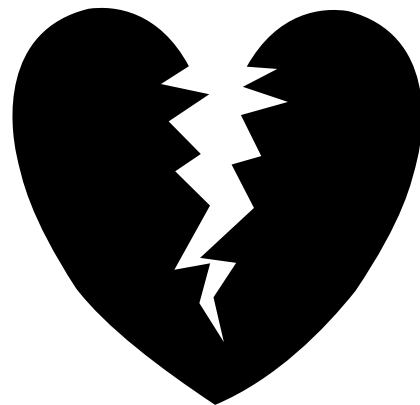
The following three scenarios are role play activities based on the plots from each of the songs to which we've been listening. In groups, see if you can act out one of the stories.

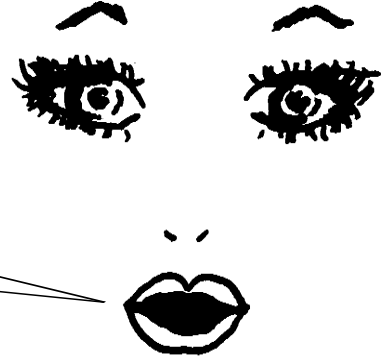
- a. Nightclub Scenario: Role play meeting someone at a dance. How would you get the girl (or guy) to dance with you?



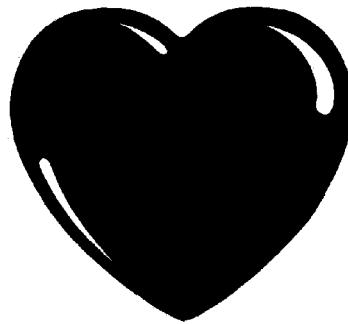
- b. Married Couple: You and your friend hear a married couple next door arguing. The wife is very confident that her husband will never leave her, and she tells him so. What does he say?

- c. A Guy Breaking Up With His Girlfriend: A guy is explaining to his girlfriend why he's leaving her.



VII. EASY DOES IT ... LET'S DISCUSS IT I, II, III

After doing the above role play activities, what do you think of American romance? Do men and women treat each other differently in your country? How? Why?

**VIII. YOU'VE GOT THE FEEL —
NOW MAKE IT REAL** II, III

The songwriter of "Ramblin' Man" says, "When it's time for leavin' I hope you'll understand, I was born a ramblin' man." Do you think the desire to move on is universal? Is it different between men and women? Write an essay in the present tense in which you express your opinion. Remember, the simple present tense is often used for habits or routines and for opinions.