

Section **3**

## Short Vowels

## Lesson 20

Short Vowel **a** Sound  
as in cat, laugh

## The Animal

J\_\_n h\_\_s \_\_n \_\_nimal in a box. No one c\_\_n see in the box. It is in the b\_\_ck of the cl\_\_ssroom. \_\_fter our n\_\_ps, we will h\_\_ve show \_\_nd tell. We c\_\_n \_\_sk J\_\_n questions \_\_nd try to guess her \_\_nimal. I hope I \_\_m the one that gets it right.

D\_\_n \_\_sks the first question, “Is your \_\_nimal f\_\_t?”

“No, it is not f\_\_t but it is bigger th\_\_n \_\_n \_\_nt,” says J\_\_n.

Next, is S\_\_m’s turn. “Is your \_\_nimal a c\_\_t?” he \_\_sks.

“No, it is not a c\_\_t but it smaller th\_\_n a c\_\_lf,” says J\_\_n.

“Does your \_\_nimal eat \_\_pples?” \_\_sks St\_\_n.

“No, it does not eat \_\_pples but it does eat gr\_\_ss,” says J\_\_n.

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## Uncle Dan's Fancy Pants

My f\_\_mily likes to tell stories about my uncle D\_\_n because he loves to wear f\_\_ncy p\_\_nts. They say th\_\_t Uncle D\_\_n beg\_\_n wearing f\_\_ncy p\_\_nts when he was a little boy. Looking \_\_t old f\_\_mily pictures from the p\_\_st makes me l\_\_gh because Uncle D\_\_n is always wearing p\_\_nts th\_\_t st\_\_nd out. There are pictures of him wearing pl\_\_d p\_\_nts, p\_\_tterned p\_\_nts, p\_\_nts made out of p\_\_tches, \_\_nd even a pair of \_\_lligator \_\_nd gir\_\_ff\_\_ p\_\_nts! It doesn't m\_\_tter if it's winter or summer or a f\_\_ncy or c\_\_sual event, Uncle D\_\_n always h\_\_s on a pair of crazy p\_\_nts.

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Word count = 241 words

## Sentences

1. We can carry that bag back to the wagon.
2. Dad's cat had bad gas.
3. The fat rabbit was a sad animal.
4. I did laugh at the man in the plaid hat.
5. I saw the bank bandit at the canyon pass.
6. Our captain was bad at reading maps.
7. The falcon did happen to attack the rat.
8. The handsome lad had a fancy jacket and cap.
9. There was a mad dash from the cabin after a bang in the attic.
10. You can always relax and have a nap after a bath.
11. I ran to the van to get my camera.
12. The parrot was my pal and always sat on my lap.
13. I cannot say that I am a fan of his last act.
14. I'd rather have carrots than cactus in my salad.
15. I'll give you this ham for a gallon of jam.
16. You must know the exact facts for this exam.
17. The cab driver sang as his feet went tap, tap, tap.
18. I shall hang a satin rag to show the path.
19. I began to get tan from my work at the corral.
20. You don't need an axe to cut a banana.
21. The ducks like to quack as they walk in a pack.
22. A dog will wag his tail if you pat his head.
23. The pan rang out as it stuck to the magnet.
24. You can add a tag to the mat – thanks for that!
25. They act as if the giraffe has not had a bath.

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## Turn the Question Around

1. Where can you get a pair of plaid pants?
2. What snack does your family have after dinner?
3. Where shall I hang my jacket?
4. Can you carry a giraffe in a sack?
5. How do you get a rabbit out of a hat?
6. What makes you happy and what makes you laugh?
7. What is in the basket?
8. What makes you mad?
9. What do dragons eat for snacks?
10. How do you catch an alligator in the sand?

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Word count = 283 words,  
including title

## The Animal

Jan has an animal in a box. No one can see in the box. It is in the back of the classroom. After our naps, we will have show and tell. We can ask Jan questions and try to guess her animal. I hope I am the one that gets it right.

Dan asks the first question, “Is your animal fat?”

“No, it is not fat but it is bigger than an ant,” says Jan.

Next, is Sam’s turn. “Is your animal a cat?” he asks.

“No, it is not a cat but it smaller than a calf,” says Jan.

“Does your animal eat apples?” asks Stan.

“No, it does not eat apples but it does eat grass,” says Jan.

“Can your animal fit inside a hat?” asks Fran.

“Yes, it can fit inside a big hat but it cannot fit in a small cap,” says Jan.

“Can you put your animal in a wagon?” asks Nan.

“Yes, you can, but it will jump out,” says Jan.

“Is your animal fast?” asks Sam.

“Yes, it is fast and hard to catch,” says Jan.

At last it is my turn and I am so glad. “I know, I know, is it a rabbit?”

“Yes, it is!” says Jan.

We all sit down so Jan can pass her rabbit around. He is black and has big ears. His name is Happy. We laugh as Happy hops around. Soon Jan puts Happy the rabbit back in the box. We thank her and say good-bye to Happy. We are sad to see him go, but I cannot wait to see what will happen when it is my turn and I bring my lamb to school.

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Word count = 400 words,  
including title

## Uncle Dan's Fancy Pants

My family likes to tell stories about my uncle Dan because he loves to wear fancy pants. They say that Uncle Dan began wearing fancy pants when he was a little boy. Looking at old family pictures from the past makes me laugh because Uncle Dan is always wearing pants that stand out. There are pictures of him wearing plaid pants, patterned pants, pants made out of patches, and even a pair of alligator and giraffe pants! It doesn't matter if it's winter or summer or a fancy or casual event, Uncle Dan always has on a pair of crazy pants.

I cannot help laughing when I remember the time Uncle Dan wore a pair of black and lavender pants to a wedding. Other than the bride, he was the one everyone talked most about. All of the women wanted to dance with him. In fact, lots of men came up to Uncle Dan and said they would like to have pants like his and asked him where he got his lavender and black pants. Uncle Dan was only too happy to answer them.

Another time I went to pick up Uncle Dan at the airport. As soon as the plane landed and people started getting off, I had no problem finding Uncle Dan. He was the only man who had on a pair of animal-pattern pants. I laughed to myself and thought, "I would have seen him from a mile away."

The last time I saw Uncle Dan was when we had the whole family over for a backyard barbeque. Can you imagine the look on our faces as Uncle Dan walked in wearing satin pants? At first everyone thought they were pajama pants but Uncle Dan said they weren't. I thought my dad would die laughing, but Uncle Dan just smiled.

We have all asked Uncle Dan, "How many different pairs of pants do you have?" He just says, "I would rather not answer that. Let's just say that I have enough fancy pants to last a long time."

The fact that Uncle Dan doesn't dress like other people and that many people don't understand why he likes fancy pants so much doesn't make him mad. You have to hand it to Uncle Dan, if his fancy pants don't make you laugh, I bet they will at least put a smile on your face.