

Focus 4



**Letter A: Is it
Grey or Black?**



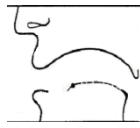
Red-winged Blackbirds are land birds which are plentiful in Canada.

Red-winged Blackbird Picture

/æ/ as in black



Blackbird



/ɛ/ as in red



Wren

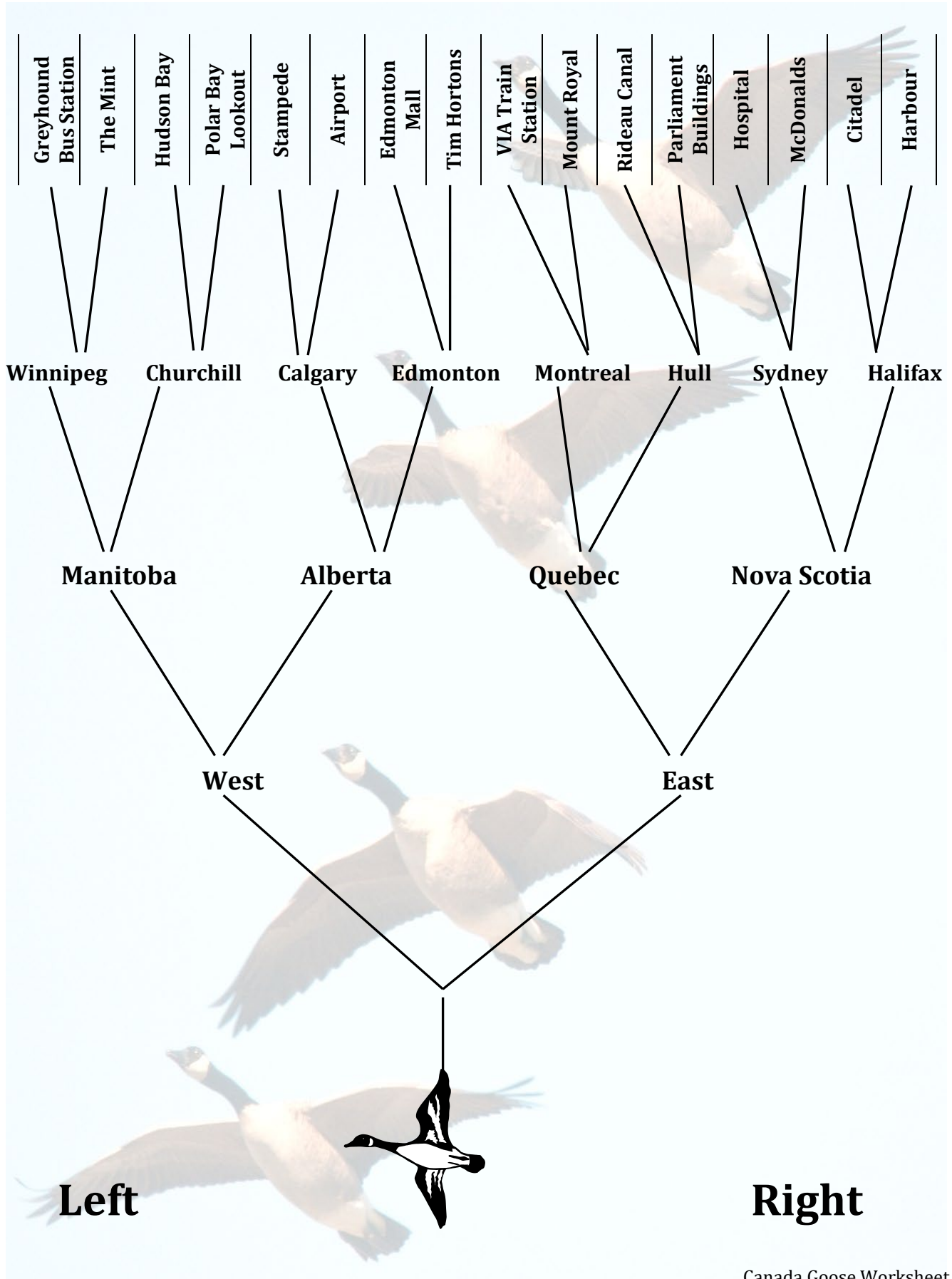


man
mat
tan
dad
pan
gas
bat
jam
rad
back
can
land
ran
sand

men
met
ten
dead
pen
guess
bet
gem
red
beck
Ken
lend
wren
send

- adapted from *Teaching American English Pronunciation*, Paul Avery and Susan Elrich. Oxford University Press, 1994.

- adapted from *Vowel Dimensions*. Canadian Government Publishing Centre, 1983.



Canada Goose Worksheet

Partner 1 begins by reading the sentences a. – d.

Partner 1: Read the sentences with the underlined word.

a. She went to the vat.
She went to the vet.

b. That is dad.
That is dead.

c. The men cut it.
The man cut it.

d. The gas is good.
The guess is good.

Now switch roles for e. – h.

**Partner 1: Listen as your partner reads the sentences.
Check (✓) the sentence heard.**

e. He bat some.
He bet some.

f. This is a gem.
This is a jam.

g. A pan is there.
A pen is there.

h. She has a tan.
She has a ten.

After you have finished, compare the two sides of the worksheet to see if you have made and heard the sentence read.

Partner 2 listens and marks the sentence heard.

**Partner 2: Listen as your partner reads the sentences.
Check (✓) the sentence heard.**

a. She went to the vat.
She went to the vet.

b. That is dead.
That is dad.

c. The man cut it.
The men cut it.

d. The guess is good.
The gas is good.

Now switch roles for e. – h.

Partner 2: Read the sentences with the underlined word.

e. He bet some.
He bat some.

f. This is a gem.
This is a jam.

g. A pen is there.
A pan is there.

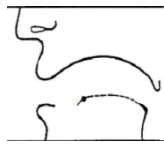
h. She has a ten.
She has a tan.

After you have finished, compare the two sides of the worksheet to see if you have made and heard the sentence read.

/æ/ as in **black**



Blackbird



/eɪ/ as in **grey**



Jay



black

Gran

man

mat

tam

snack

pan

fat

bat

gal

Jan

Blake

grain

main

mate

tame

snake

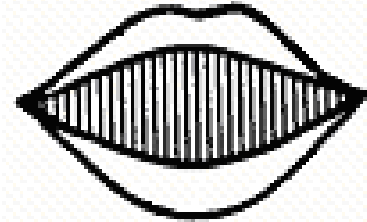
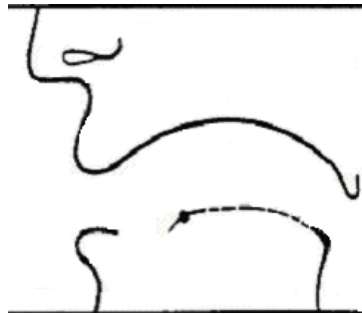
pain

fate

bait

Gail

Jane

/æ/ as in **black, Blackbird**

Can you hear the **blackbird**?

Peter **began** to use the **map**.

Put the nest **back** into the tree.

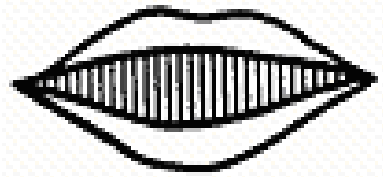
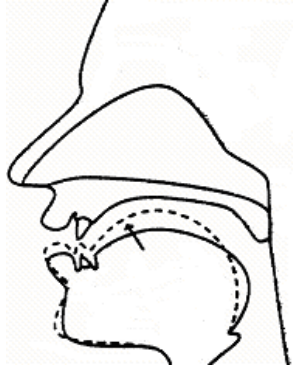
Is the wing **damaged**?

Where is the waste **can**?

The **map** is on the table.

Don't put your **hand** into the nest.

Jane fed her **cats**.

/e^y/ as in **grey, Jay**

Where is the Blue **Jay**?

Always be aware of your **safety**.

Kate put the **cake** on the **plate**.

Rain falls **mainly** on the **plain**.

Weigh the apples on the **scale**.

Have a good **day**!

Spelling with the letter 'a'

aA



the sound /æ/ as in *black*  is nearly always [97%] spelled with an 'a'.

the sound /eɪ/ as in *jay*  is usually spelled 'a_e', sometimes with 'ai', 'ay' or 'eigh'

**Choose the correct word and write it in the blank.**

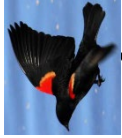
1. Peter makes a good _____ (wage, wag).
2. Paul _____ (made, mad) dinner.
3. Alex ____ (ate, at) his lunch in the cafeteria.
4. Where is the floor _____ (plane, plan)?
5. Everyone must wear a _____ (hate, hat) in the sun.
6. Please hand me the _____ (tape, tap) measure.
7. I would like a _____ (snake, snack) now.
8. In the _____ (paste, past) safety equipment was not used.

Card 1: /æ/ and /eɪ/				Card 2: /æ/ and /eɪ/			
and	blade	gal	hazard	bake	mate	obtain	path
Kate	hand	cat	apron	Gail	rat	safe	rate
away	clamp	hat	made	have	replace	snake	safe
main	hate	damage	back	mat	share	snack	understand

Card 3: /æ/ and /eɪ/				Card 4: /æ/ and /eɪ/			
snap	understand	snack	rat	away	back	damage	unsafe
mate	hazard	gal	blade	clamp	snap	hate	rain
and	snake	rate	obtain	hat	replace	main	mat
Kate	hand	cat	apron	made	path	ran	safe

Card 5: /æ/ and /eɪ/				Card 6: /æ/ and /eɪ/			
blade	made	cat	ran	hand	rat	unsafe	snake
safe	clamp	snake	obtain	Gail	back	share	safe
gal	Kate	understand	hate	damage	mat	main	bake
and	snap	away	ran	hazard	apron	rain	mate

Card 7: /æ/ and /eɪ/				Card 8: /æ/ and /eɪ/			
hat	made	unsafe	gal	away	Gail	have	understand
replace	clamp	snap	made	hand	ran	hazard	blade
path	mate	rate	clamp	rate	obtain	cat	rain
snack	bake	snake	and	replace	damage	mat	hat



Follow the /æ/- *black* - sound:

black	back	damage	can	ate	youth	save
bean	they	stay	mask	clamp	wait	tie
plane	hand	clap	fat	snap	nice	same
never	hat	year	hazard	path	math	pay
cold	map	pat	tap	show	last	have

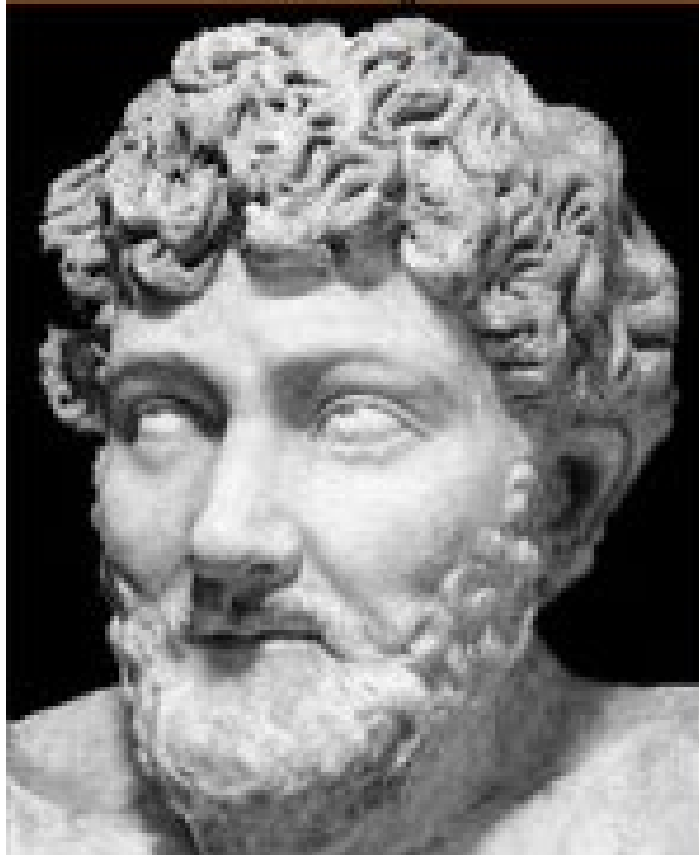




Follow the /eɪ/- grey or Jay- sound:

safe	wait	came	deed	get	tune	June
bean	they	stay	road	wage	wait	main
five	ate	clamp	these	rate	stand	same
rise	apron	year	say	plane	need	face
cold	blade	place	tape	show	please	blade





Aesop (c. 620–564 BC)
A storyteller credited with a number of
fables now collectively known as
Aesop's Fables

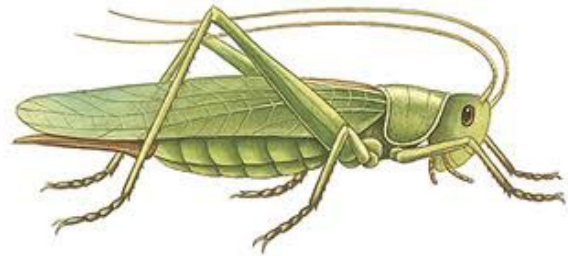
The Ants and the Grasshopper



The Ants were spending a fine winter's day drying grain collected in the summertime. A Grasshopper, perishing with famine, passed by and earnestly begged for a little food.

The Ants inquired of him, "Why did you not treasure up food during the summer?"

He replied, "I had not leisure enough. I passed the days in singing."



They then said in derision: "If you were foolish enough to sing all the summer, you must dance supperless to bed in the winter."