



Typing the 'ə' or 'schwa' in Wamba Wamba words.

The 'ə' appears in quite a number of Wamba Wamba words like 'katən' (water), 'manyə' (hand or five), 'kurrək' (country). It is a neutral sound like the 'e' in 'the' or the 'n't' in 'can't'.

Here is a handy keyboard shortcut if you have the right keyboard (ABC Extended or US Extended). Type - OPTION + : + a (or A if you want a Ə).

If this shortcut doesn't work with your keyboard you can add one of the two keyboards above in your settings or preferences.

If you are using a smartphone or tablet, the screen keyboards often don't include the schwa 'ə'. Find out if it does by checking holding down the 'e' and seeing if a 'ə' is included in the pop up list to select.

On both computers and smartphones you can set up a 'text substitution' in preferences. You can designate a keyboard combination that you would use in either Wamba Wamba or English eg 'qe' (the schwa looks like a queer or strange upside down e). When you type 'qe' a popdown presents the 'ə' to select.

If none of these alternatives work just copy and paste from this document or from our online dictionary or from this learning exercise page.

If you are still having problems try emailing our project team at 'admin@yarkuwa.org.au' or 'austories@gmail.com'.