

Lyric Diction Workbook Series: www.stmpublishers.com

Note the in-between vowels (in bold): [æ] **[a]** [ɑ], [ɑ] **[ɒ]** [ɔ], [i] **[e]** [ɛ]. These vowels are not recommended for lyric diction (Marshall).

VOWELS UNSTRESSED SYLLABLES								
[ɪ]	[ʌ]	[ʊ]	[ə]	[ɒ]	[o]/[u]	[ɪ]	[oo]	[ə]
believe	agree	perceive	forgive	fulfill	obey	mercy	shadow	All other unstressed syllables: ballerina [ˈbæləˈrɪnə]
endure	complete	surprise	horizon	[u] + [r]	provide	singing	[ɛ]	
divine	concern		tormented	luxury	evaluate/duet	pitied	always	
	uncertain		[o] + [r]	[ˈlæɡʒjəri]	Final syllable	prairie	[ɑ]	
	uplifting		memory [ə]		purpose [ə]	marries	paradise	

***WHEN TO SING [ɑ]:** Specified spellings that have an [æ] sound in American English are pronounced with dark [ɑ] for lyric diction

I. Spelling: *a* + [f], [s], [ntʃ], [ns], *th* (Memory aid: *after class Blanch danced rather fast*)

*Prefix *trans-* is transcribed with [æ]

II. Spellings *-and*, *-ant* and *-ample* are [α] in the following words only:

-and: command, demand, reprimand -ant: can't, shan't, aunt, advantage, chant, enchant, grant, plant, slant

-ample: *sample, example*

III. Exceptions to section I: words with an [æ] pronunciation (additional exceptions apply)

Textbook authority: *The Singer's Manual of English Diction* by Madeleine Marshall