

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

JSS 1

WEEK 8

SPEECH: THE VOWEL SOUNDS: /æ/, /ɑ:/, /ɪ/, /i:/

1. **Speech** is the expression of or the ability to express thoughts and feelings by articulate sounds.
2. The vowel sound /æ/ is described as a short vowel sound. When you say the sound /æ/, the tip of your tongue touches the lower front teeth, the back of your tongue is down and your lips are spread. The sound /æ/ is frequently spelt as / a /.
3. Some of the words with /æ/ sound are: bank, can, cash, has, sad, man, etc.
4. The vowel sound /ɑ:/ is described as a long vowel sound. When you say the sound /ɑ:/, your tongue is low inside the mouth. The tip of your tongue is not near the lower front teeth and the back of your tongue is down. Your mouth is open, the shape of your lips is oval and your jaw is down a little. /ɑ:/ sound can be found in words with a, al, ar, ear, au, and er. Consider the table below.

a	al	ar	ear	au	er
father	calm	arm	heart	laugh	clerk
path	alms	hard	hearty	aunt	sergeant
class	palm	farther	hearten	draught	

5. The table below contains the transcriptions of the words with /æ/ and /ɑ:/ sounds.

	/ɑ:/		/æ/
Mark	/mɑ:k/	Mac	/mæk/
Cart	/kɑ:t/	Cat	/kæt/
Card	/kɑ:d/	Cad	/kæd/
March	/mɑ:tʃ/	Match	/mætʃ/
Psalm	/sɑ:m/	Sam	/sæm/
Lark	/lɑ:k/	Lack	/læk/
Harm	/hɑ:m/	Ham	/hæm/

HOME WORK

1. What is speech?
2. Write out ten (10) words with /ɑ:/ sound.
3. Write out ten (10) words with /æ/ sound.