

Unit V7-A [ɑ] boss—[ə] bus

Story

Listen to the story as your teacher reads it, or on tape, until you understand the main ideas.

Kevin was supposed to be at work at 8:00 for an important meeting, but it was after 9:00 when he woke up. He jumped out of the bed, put on some clothes, and ran to the bus stop. While he was on the (1) **bus**, he worried about what he should say to his (2) **boss**. When the bus stopped in front of his office building, Kevin jumped off and started in. Then he noticed that he had left his briefcase on the bus. He ran after the bus, but it left him behind.

Feeling frustrated, Kevin walked into his office. The secretary told him that the boss had just left for another meeting. Kevin ran out of the office and saw the boss walking down the hallway. He ran after him to apologize, but the boss didn't notice him and went into the meeting room. Kevin felt like screaming.

Then Kevin heard a strange noise. It was his alarm clock ringing. He woke up and saw it was 7:00 A.M. "What a relief!" he said. "It was all only a dream."

(Note: Words such as boss, saw, all, and office are pronounced with an [ɑ] sound in some dialects of English. In other dialects, they are pronounced with an [ɔ] sound. In either case, the contrast with [ə] is important to make.)

Contrasting Sentences

Listening: Write the appropriate key word in each blank. Later, as you hear each sentence, mark the box, point to the picture, make a gesture, and/or say the rejoinder. Speaking: Choose and say each sentence so that your listener(s) can respond correctly.

- Kevin ran after the _____ (to get his briefcase)
- Kevin ran after the _____ (to apologize)

Explanations and diagrams for this unit's target sounds are on pages 332–33 in Section 10.

