## Unit V9-A [ə] bud—[ər] bird

## Story

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

Shirley's favorite season is spring. She waits all winter for the snow to melt. When the (1) birds return and the trees start to bud, she is very happy. She knows that those (2) buds will soon be blossoms and leaves. She enjoys getting up early in the morning and walking in a park near her home. There, she watches the birds as they build their nests. She also likes to examine the flower buds that are getting ready to bloom. She thinks about how beautiful they will soon look. Shirley can't help telling everyone, "Spring is a wonderful time of the year!" Don't you agree?

(Note: Many dialects of English are "r-less." In such cases, the [ər] in bird is pronounced as a slightly lengthened [ɔ], and the vowel in bud may be represented with the symbol [A] instead of [ə].)

## 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.

- ☐ Shirley enjoys looking at the \_\_\_\_\_\_. (building their nests)
- ☐ Shirley enjoys looking at the \_\_\_\_\_\_. (getting ready to bloom)

Explanations and diagrams for this unit's target sounds are on pages 333–34 in Section 10.



