Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation on Fluent American. My name is Geoff. Today, we’re looking at the /ɔ/ sound. Before we begin, some standard notes: to really study pronunciation, please repeat the sounds with me as you listen. I even suggest recording yourself so you can see how you sound, if you are able. Alright, let’s get started.

To make the /ɔ/ sound, your mouth needs to be open. Keep the tip of your tongue down; the back can be high, but do not touch the top of your mouth.

There are many ways to write this sound.

*AW* is the first way, like in “dawn”, “paw”, and “lawful”.

*AL* will take away contact from the “L” sound: “talk”, “already”, and “wall”.

*AU* is seen in words like “audience”, “clause”, and “August”.

*O* does the job, too, as in “boss”, “solve”, and “often”.

*OUGHT* and *AUGHT* also work: “sought”, “daughter”, and “thought”.

Again: “dawn”, “paw”, “lawful”, “talk”, “already”, “wall”, “audience”, “clause”, “August”, “boss”, “solve”, “often”, “sought”, “daughter”, “thought”

Let’s look at some sample word pairs:

daughter’s boss/ small ball/ always talk/ gone off/ long walk/ thought wrong/ saw it all/ salty sauce

Here are some sentences to practice with:

Her daughter caught the ball I thought was gone.

The author received a long applause from the audience.

The dog we lost in August walked home by the fall.

I saw you watered the lawn and bought paint for the wall.

Alright, that’s it for today! Again, record yourself. See if you can pronounce the words like me, and we’ll practice again next time. Thanks for listening!