

Phonetics
Elision
by Dr. Chelli

Apart from internal elisions and those associated with weak forms, sounds may be elided in rapid, colloquial speech, especially at word boundaries (Gimson, 1978, p. 297). These sounds include vowels and consonants.

I) Vowels

1) Loss of the weak vowel /ə /after p, t, k

- | <u>Word</u> | <u>Transcription</u> | <u>Transcription with elision</u> |
|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ■ Tomato | | |
| ■ Potato | | |
| ■ Today | | |
| ■ Perhaps | | |
| ■ canary | | |

2) Loss of the weak vowel /ə /+ n, l or r

- | ■ Word | <u>Transcription</u> | <u>Transcription with elision</u> |
|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ■ Police | | |
| ■ Correct | | |
| ■ tonight | | |

3) Loss of initial /ə / when followed by a continuant and preceded by a word final consonant

- **Phrases/ Sentences Transcription Using elision**
- **He was annoyed**
- **get another**
- **run along**
- **not alone**

when an appropriate vowel precedes word initial /ə/, it may coalesce with the preceding vowel

<u>Phrases</u>	<u>Transcription</u>	<u>Using elision</u>
----------------	----------------------	----------------------

- go away
- try again

or when final /ə / occurs with a following final /r / and word initial vowel /ə /

- | ■ Phrases | Transcription | using elision |
|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| ■ father and son | | |
| ■ over and above | | |
| ■ as a matter of fact | | |

II) Consonants

- In addition to the loss of /h/ in pronominal weak forms and other consonantal elisions, alveolar plosives may be elided.
- 1) Such elision appear to take place most readily, in rapid speech, in the sequence continuant consonant + /t / or /d / (e.g/ st, ft, ft, nd, ld, zd, vd) followed by a word with an initial consonant

Phrases

Transcription

using elision

- **next day**
- **first flight**
- **pushed them**
- **raced back**
- **just one**
- **last chance**
- **refused both**
- **found five**
- **caused loses**
- **old man**
- **moved back**

2) Similarly, word final clusters of plosives or affricates + / t/ or /d/ (e.g. /pt, kt, tʃt, bd, gd, d d may lose the final alveolar stop when the following word has an initial consonant

■ Phrases	Transcription	using elision
■ kept quiet		
■ thanked me		
■ dragged them		
■ urged them		
■ helped me		
■ looked like		
■ Begged one		

-
- **judged fairly**
 - **stopped speaking**
 - **robbed both**
 - **changed colour**
 - **reached home**

3) Final /t, d/ followed by a word beginning with /j/ are usually kept in a coalesced form, e.g., /tʃ/ and /d /

■ Word	Transcription	using elision
■ helped you		
■ liked you		
■ told you		
■ left you		

4) The /t/ of the negative form /nt/ is often elided, particularly a following consonant

- Sentences Transcription using elision

You mustn't lose it.
Doesn't she know?

■ **And sometimes before a vowel**

■ **Sentences Transcription using elision**

■ **You mustn't over eat**

■ **Wouldn't he come**

5) Less common is the omission of the stops in the negative /nt/

- **He won't do it.**

6) Clusters of final /t/ or /d/ are sometimes simplified

- | ■ Sentences | Transcription | using elision |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| ■ I've got to go. | | |
| ■ We could try. | | |
| ■ What do you want? | | |
| ■ They should do it. | | |

7) The elision of one of a boundary cluster of two consonants occurs in very rapid speech

- **Sentences Transcription using elision**

He went away.

Give me a cake.

Let me come.

I'm going to come.