

3. Aspects of connected speech

When we speak naturally, we don't pronounce a word, stop, then say the next word in a sentence (separately). Fluent speech flows with a rhythm and the words bump into each other. To make speech flow smoothly, the way we pronounce the end and beginning of some words can change depending on the sounds at the beginning and end of those words. These changes are described as *features of connected speech*. They are: **linking, assimilation, elision, juncture, and contraction.**

3.1. Linking (Liaison)

2.1. Definition

Linking is the phenomenon that takes place when we join (link) words together, the final sound in a word with the initial one in the next word to make our speech sound natural, fluid, and fluent.

2.2. Types of linking in English speech

A) Consonants and consonants (XXXC - CXXX)

When a word ends with the same consonant that the next word starts with, both consonants are pronounced as one.

A bit tired = a bi <u>T</u> ired	A lot to do = a lo <u>T</u> o do	This site = thi <u>S</u> ite
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B) Vowels and vowels (XXXV - VXXX)

When certain vowels are next to each other an extra glide /j/ or /w/ sounds are added.

- 1. Glide /j/:** when the first word ends with /i:/ or a diphthong ending with /ɪ:/ (/aɪ/, /ɔɪ/, /eɪ/).

My arms = / maɪ <u>j</u> ɑ:mz /	See it = /si: <u>j</u> ɪt/	Day in = /deɪ <u>j</u> ɪn/
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- 2. Glide /w/:** after the back vowels /u:/, /əʊ/, /aʊ/.

Do it = /du: <u>w</u> ɪt/	How old = /haʊ <u>w</u> ɔld/	Go out = /gəʊ <u>w</u> aʊt/
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C) Consonants and vowels (XXXC - VXXX)

Words ending in a consonant are linked to words starting with a vowel by moving the consonant to the next vowel.

Can I help = ca <u>n</u> ɪ help	Turn off = tur <u>n</u> ɒff	Look out = loo <u>k</u> aʊt
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D) Linking with /r/:

- 1. Final linking /r/:**

The final phoneme /r/ is not pronounced in final position in Received Pronunciation (RP) [door /dɔ:/, far /fɑ:/, car /kɑ:/]. However, in connected speech, when a word ending with /r/ is followed by a word starting with a vowel, the /r/ sound is pronounced.

Care of = /keər <u>r</u> ɒv/	Far away = /fɑ: <u>r</u> ə'weɪ/	Sure enough = /ʃʊər <u>r</u> ɪ'nʌf/
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- 2. Intrusive /r/:**

Many RP speakers use an /r/ to link words ending with vowels. This is called intrusive /r/ as it does not exist in the word originally like in the linking /r/.

Media <u>(r)</u> event	No idea <u>(r)</u> of	Drama <u>(r)</u> and music
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