

Unit 3: Aspects of Connected Speech

Lesson 1: Linking

Phonetics - Term 4

Department of English

Connected speech

- In natural speech, words are not pronounced separately.
- Fluent speech flows smoothly with connected words.
- These connections create pronunciation changes.

Connected speech

Example ...

If you say "I have a cup of tea" slowly, word by word, it sounds like: /aɪ//hæv//ə//kʌp/ /ɒv/ /ti:/

But in natural, we say “/aɪ həvə kʌpəv ti:/”

**Today, we focus on
Linking (Liaison)**

What is linking?

Definition of Linking

- Linking occurs when the final sound of a word connects with the initial sound of the next.
- It makes speech natural, fluid, and fluent.

Definition of Linking

Examples ...

1. "Big game" → /bɪg ɡeɪm/

2. "Go out" → /gəʊ aʊt/

3. "Pick it up" → /pɪk ɪt ʌp/

Definition of Linking

Examples ...

1. "Big game" → /bɪg ɡeɪm/ → /bɪgeɪm/
2. "Go out" → /gəʊ aʊt/ → /gəʊ-w- aʊt/
3. "Pick it up" → /pɪk ɪt ʌp/ → /pɪkit ʌp/

Types of Linking

1. Consonant + Consonant (C - C)
2. Vowel + Vowel (V - V)
3. Consonant + Vowel (C - V)

Consonant + Consonant Linking

- When a word ends with the same consonant as the next word begins, both sounds merge.

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Examples:

- A bit tired →/ə bɪt təɪəd/ →
- A lot to do →/ə lɒt tu: du:/ →
- This site →/ðɪs saɪt/ →

Consonant + Consonant Linking

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Examples:

- A bit tired → /ə bɪt tərəd/ → /ə bɪt**ta**rəd/
- A lot to do → /ə lɒt tu: du:/ → /ə lɒt**tu**: du:/
- This site → /ðɪs saɪt/ → /ðɪS**a**ɪt/

Vowel + Vowel Linking

- When final vowel meets an initial vowel, a glide sound /j/ or /w/ is inserted.

Vowel + Vowel Linking

Glide /j/

The glide sound /j/ is used after /i:/, /aɪ/, /ɔɪ/, /eɪ/:

- My arms → /maɪ a:mz/
- See it → /si: tɪ/
- Day in → /deɪ ɪn/

Glide /w/

The glide sound /w/ is used after /u:/, /əʊ/, /aʊ/:

- - Do it → /du: tɪ/
- - How old → /haʊ əʊld/
- - Go out → /gəʊ aʊt/

Vowel + Vowel Linking

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The glide sound /w/ is used after /u:/, /əʊ/, /aʊ/:

- - Do it → /du:wɪt/
- - How old → /haʊwəʊld/
- - Go out → /gəʊwəʊt/

Consonant + Vowel Linking

- When a final consonant meet an initial vowel, the final consonant moves to the next vowel-initial word.

Consonant + Vowel Linking

Examples:

- Can I help → /kæn aɪ hɛlp/
- Turn off → /tɜ:n ɒf/
- Look out → /lʊk aʊt/

Consonant + Vowel Linking

Examples:

- Can I help → /kænəɪ hɛlp/
- Turn off → /tɜ:nɒf/
- Look out → /lʊkəʊt/

Linking /r/

- In RP, final /r/ is usually silent but pronounced when followed by a vowel.
- Examples:
 - Care of → /keər ɒv/
 - Far away → /fa:r ə'wei/
 - Sure enough → /ʃʊər ɪ'nʌf/

Intrusive /r/

- Some RP speakers insert an /r/ sound between vowels.
- Examples:
 - Media(r) event
 - No idea(r) of
 - Drama(r) and music

PRACTICE: LINKING

Transcribe the following phrases/ sentences with Linking.

#	Phrases/ sentences		
1	Bring <u>more</u> ice.	8	I like lining in a <u>quiet</u> town.
2	I need to wake up early tomorrow.	9	Pam tried to <u>fix</u> it, but it was too late.
3	I'd like to <u>see</u> Anna.	10	She was wearing a <u>red</u> dress.
4	There's a <u>big</u> gorilla looking right at me.	11	I <u>am</u> ready to <u>go</u> out.
5	I would like to have <u>an</u> apple.	12	I <u>feel</u> lucky today.
6	Jake found <u>two</u> apples on the table.	13	<u>How</u> old are you?
7	Can you make <u>an</u> exception?	14	We see this problem all <u>too</u> often.

Final Activity - Linking Challenge

- Listen and identify linking in these sentences:
 1. Go on an adventure.
 2. She is over there.
 3. Do it again.
 4. My idea is great.
 5. This is a big problem.
- Bonus: Try saying them aloud!

Conclusion

- Linking helps speech sound fluent and natural.
- Key types: C-C, V-V, C-V, linking /r/, intrusive /r/.
- Practice linking in your speech for better pronunciation!
- Questions?