

SOUND CHANGES

LINKING & ELISION

What does it involve?

- **Consonant to same consonant**
 - In _no way
 - I miss _Sarah
- **Consonant to vowel**
 - In _every way
 - I miss _Aaron
- **Vowel to Vowel**
 - Coffee and milk → coffeeeeand
 - Radio → Radi'o
- **Consonant to different consonant**
 - Cook badly → coo|badly
 - Stop sign → sto|sign
- **Other**
 - /r/ to vowel (four eggs → four _eggs)

LINKING R

- The phenomenon of r-linking is based on the fact that, by default, in **British English**, /r/ in syllable-final position is not pronounced, e.g. *car* /kɑ:/.
 - R-linking takes place when such syllables are followed by any vowel sound

<i>Care</i>	/keə/	<i>Far away</i>	fɑ: əweɪ > fɑ r əweɪ
<i>Caring</i>	/keərɪŋ/	<i>More ice</i>	mɔ: raɪs > mɔ r aɪs
<i>Care about</i>	/keə'əbaʊt/		
- The letter 'r' appears in the spelling. The R sound between the words appears because it makes the word(s) easier to pronounce quickly.

INTRODUCTION TO LINKING

- The **words** in phrases or thought groups are **usually linked together**. The sound that finishes one word connects to the sound at the beginning of the next word;
- We say the words in the phrase **smoothly, connecting the sound of the last word to the beginning sound of the next word** without stopping after each word;
- Linking helps your overall **fluency**. You will be easier to understand, and your listeners will react more positively to your speech if you link sounds – an important factor for **listening comprehension**;
- A **marker of native-like speech**.

Rhotic and non-rhotic accents

- English accents can be divided into two groups, depending on where the sound /r/ is allowed to occur – rhotic (GA, Irish English...) and non-rhotic (RP, Australian English...)
- In rhotic accents, /r/ is pronounced whenever it appears in spelling;
- In non-rhotic accents, only when followed by a vowel.

LINKING R, further examples

It's near enough. /ɪts niə r ɪ'naʊð/

It's quite far away. /ɪts kwɪt fɑ:r ə'weɪ/

There's a tour along the river. /ðəz ə tuə r əlɒŋ ðə 'rɪvə/

mother-in-law. /'mʌðə'rɪn lɔ:/

My father and mother. /maɪ fɑ:ðə r ənd 'mʌðə/

Pleasure and freedom. /'pleʒər ənd 'fri:dəm/

Here in my room. /hɪə rɪn maɪ ru:m/

We're Earthlings. /wɪə 'ɜ:θlɪŋz/

Fear is not a number. /fiə rɪz nɒt ə' nʌmbə/

LINKING R, further examples

More apples /mɔːr ˈæplz/
 Car engine /kɑːr ˈendʒɪn/
 Sure is it brilliant? /ʃʊːr ɪz ɪt brɪljənt/
 A tower of there. /ə taʊə ɒv ðeə/
 sister-in-law /ˈsɪstərɪnlɔː/
 father-in-law /fɑːðərɪnlɔː/
 Dear ambition /dɪə ˈæm bɪʃn/
 Better off /betər ɒf/
 Never again /nevər ə ˈgeɪn/
 I slammed the door and locked it /aɪ slæmɪd ðə dɔːr ən lɒkt ɪt/
 In your eyes /ɪn jʊr aɪz/
 For in your sweet dream /fɔːr ɪn jə swiːt driːm/

INTRUSIVE R

- Even when there is no R in the spelling, many native speakers will naturally join certain vowel sounds together with a /r/. This is called the **intrusive /r/**.

law and order /lɔːr ən ɔːdə/
 The idea of it /ði aɪdɪə əv ɪt/ > /ði aɪdɪə ər əv ɪt/
 A banana or an apple /ə bənə nər ər ən æpl/
 China and India /tʃaɪnə ən ɪndiə/

- Linguists call this 'intrusive r' because the R was never historically part of the word

INTRUSIVE R, further examples

Now and then /naʊ ənd ðən/
 Draw all the flowers /draʊ əl ðə flauəz/
 The cow of my grandmother /ðə kaʊ ɒv maɪ grænd,mʌðə/
 On the Internet /ɒn ðər ˈɪntənət/
 I didn't know anyone at the party /aɪ ˈdɪdn't nəʊ ɛniwʌn ət ðə pɑːti/
 A party of tourists /ə pɑːti ɒv ˈtuərɪsts/
 The video and book are now on sale /ðə ˈvɪdɪoʊ ən bʊk ə naʊ ɒn seɪl/
 I saw it yesterday /aɪ sɔːr ɪt jɛstədeɪ/
 Yesterday I wasn't here /jɛstədeɪ aɪ ˈwɒznt hɪə/
 Your idea is wonderful! /jʊ ɑː ɪdɪə ɪz wʌndəfʊl/

INTRUSIVE R, further examples

The emptiness /ðər ˈemptɪnəs/
 The Albatross is flying in the sky /ðər ˈælbatrɔːs ɪz ˈflaɪɪŋ ɪn ðə skaɪ/
 Lullaby of stars /lʌləbaɪ ɒv stɑːs/
 The way of the truth /ðə weɪ ɒv ðə truːθ/
 My eyes see clearly /maɪ aɪz siː ˈklɪəli/
 Curiosity is laughing /kjʊrɪ ˈɒsərɪ ɪz luːfɪŋ/
 I can see it /aɪ kæn siː ɪt/
 So it ends tonight /səʊ ɪt ɛnds təˈnaɪt/
 Before you push me away /bɪˈfɔː ju pʊʃ miː əˈweɪ/
 No escape /nə ɪˈskeɪp/
 And now I'm stranded out /ənd naʊ aɪm ˈstrændɪd aʊt/
 A sea of lies /ə siː ɒv laɪs/

Identify the cases of linking and intrusive /r/.

| aɪ ˈneɪvəɪ ɪˈmædʒɪnd ðæt aɪ wʊd ˈmʊri ɔːwɛr frəm ðə ˈtʰaɪni lɪtəl ˈvɪlɪdʒ weəɪ ər
 gruː¹ ˈlɔːp | tə ˈsetəl ˈdeʊn ɪn slɪʃ ə ˈbɪg ˈsɪti¹ əz *ˈlʌndən | ɪts ˈəʊnli ˈhəʊ ðæt aɪ
 ɒndəˈstænd wɔː maɪ ˈfæməli wə nɒt səʊ ˈkiːn ɒn ði ˈaɪˈdʒəɪ² əv əs ˈliːvɪŋ | ˈhəʊ¹
 aɪ hæv³ ˈtuː jʌŋ ˈkɪdʒ | *ˈɪndəɪ² ənd *pɔːl | ənd ə ˈhæz bænd tə ˈkeəɪ əbʌʊt | aɪ
 ˈrɪəlɪz ðə dɪsədˈvɑːntədʒɪz ə ˈtʰaɪld ˈhæz³ ɪn ə ˈsɪti | ˈlʊkɪŋ ˈbæk tə ðə ˈdeɪz wɛn
 aɪ wɛz ə ˈsmɔːl ˈgɜːl | aɪ ɪˈmembəɪ əbʌv ˈɔːl | ˈhəʊ ˈɪndɪˈpendənt wɪ ˈɔːl ˈwɜː⁴⁻⁵
 | ən ˈhəʊ mʌtʃ ˈfriːdəm wɪ ˈhæd³ | wɪ ˈjuːst⁶ tə ɡəʊ tə ˈskuːl ɒn ə ˈtʰeɪ ˈəʊn | raɪd
 ˈbaɪsɪkəlz | plɛɪ ˈhaɪd ənd ˈsɪk ɪn ðə ˈpɑːk | ˈhɒpskɒtʃ ɪn ðə ˈstriːt | ˈswɪm ɪn ðə
 ˈstriːm | ən ˈraɪd ɒn ðə ˈswɪŋ | wɪtʃ wɪ ˈjuːst⁶ tə ˈmeɪk frəm ə ˈtriː¹ ɪn ðə ˈwʊdʒ |
 wɪ wʊd ˈlɪtərəli ˈplɛɪ ˈtʰeɪ ˈɔːz | ˈhævɪŋ ˈɡreɪt ˈfʌn | ɪt wʊd bi ˈɔːlməʊst ˈdɑːk
 bɪfɔːt ˈaɪ ɡɒt ˈhəʊm | jət aɪ ˈneɪvə sɔːɪ² ˈaɪðə maɪ ˈmʌðəɪ ɔː maɪ ˈfɑːðə kənˈsɜːnd
 əbʌʊt ɪt | sɪns ðeɪ ˈnjuː wɪ weɪ ˈɔːl ˈseɪf | ənd wɪ wʊd ˈkʌm həʊm ˈwɛn wɪ felt

ˈhʌŋɡrɪ¹⁻⁵ | aɪ wʊd ˈlaɪk ˈmaɪ ˈtʰɪldrən tə hæv³ ˈplenti ˈəv ˈfʌn ˈtuː¹⁻⁵ | ənd
 ˈduː¹⁻³ ˈaʊtɔːɪ ˈækˈtɪvɪz | bət ɪts ɪmˈpɒsɪbəl ˈfɔː ə ˈtʰaɪld ˈhɪəɪ ɪn ðə ˈsɪti | tə
 ˈhæv³ ðə ˈkaɪnd əv ˈfriːdəm ˈaɪ ˈəndʒɔɪd | ðeɪ ˈsɑːtənlɪ ˈkænɒt ɡəʊ ˈaʊt ɒn ðeəɪ
 ˈəʊn | ˈkɔːz əɪ ə ˈdeɪndʒəɪ aɪm ˈveri ˈəweɪ ɒv⁴ | ˈnɒt tə ˈmenʃən ˈməʊtəbaɪks
 ðə ˈrʌf ɔːɪ ɪz ˈpɛtɪkjʊləli ˈbæd | wɪð ˈevri wʌn ˈspiːdɪŋ ənd ˈdraɪvɪŋ laɪk ˈmeɪnɪæks
 | ˈðen ðeɪ ɪz ðə ˈvæləns⁷ | ɪts ˈnɒt ɪːvən ˈseɪf ˈfɔː ən ˈædʌlt tə ˈwɔːk əraʊnd | wɪðʌʊt
 ðə ˈfrɛɪ əv ɡetɪŋ ˈmʌɡd ɔːɪ əˈsɔːtɪd | ˈeniweɪ¹⁻³ | aɪ ˈtraɪ tə teɪk maɪ ˈsʌn ənd ˈdɔːtəɪ
 aʊt tə ˈplɛɪ əz ˈmʌtʃ əz aɪ ˈkæn⁴ | ɒn ˈsʌməɪ ɪːvntɪz wɪ ˈɡəʊ tə ðə ˈpɑːk | ən teɪk
 ˈpɪknɪks wɪð əs | ðeɪ ɪz ən ədˈventʃəɪ ˈeəɹəɪ² ɪn ðə ˈpɑːk | weəɪ ə ˈlɒt əv ˈtʰɪldrən
 ɡet tə ˈɡeðəɪ ən ˈplɛɪ | bət ðeɪ ˈdaʊnt⁸ hæv³ ˈbi ˈɒpəˈtjuːnɪti ˈəv ˈduːɪŋ ˈveri mɛni
 ˈbɪŋz ɒn ðeəɪ ˈəʊn | nɔːɪ əv ˈrʌŋɪŋ əˈraʊnd | ɔː ˈsaɪkɪŋ ɔːl ˈəʊvə ðə ˈpleɪs əz ˈwiː⁹
 dɪd | ˈsʌmtaɪmz aɪ ˈwʌndə weðəɪ ˈaːftəɪ ˈɔːl | aɪ ˈʃʊd əv mʊːvɪd əˈweɪ¹⁻⁵ | aɪ
 dʒəst ˈhəʊp ðə ˈkɪdʒ ˈdeʊnt⁸ ˈfiːl ðeɪ ˈəɪ ˈæktʃʊəli mɪsɪŋ ˈaʊt | ˈmeɪbi¹⁻⁵ | əz ðeɪ
 ˈseɪ | ju ˈdeʊnt⁸ ˈmɪs | wɒt ju ˈəv ˈneɪvəɪ ɪkˈspɪəɪtɪst |

LINKING VOWEL TO VOWEL – INTRUSIVE W and J

- If one word ends with a vowel and the next word begins with a vowel, do not pause between the words.
- For a smoother transition between the sounds, **we insert a short /j/ sound after a front vowel (such as /eɪ/, /i/, and /aɪ/) and a short /w/ sound after a back vowel (such as /ʊ/ and /oʊ/).**

Insert a very quick /w/ sound go out “go – wout”

How are you? “how ware you”

Insert a very quick /y/ sound I am “I yam”

They are “they yare”

Vowel + Vowel

[j]-glide

I am / he is / she is / I ought to / in the end / my uncle / three hours / B. E. A. / any other /

try it / try again / very interesting / highly important / day in and day out / hurry up /

see off / stay up / we agree / May I? /

How are you? Busy as ever?

Shall we agree?

He is already very old.

May I ask how much it is?

I hurt my arm playing volleyball.

The answer to the question is on page fifty-eight.

INTRUSIVE W and J, further examples

- you and I /ju:wəndaɪ/
- Two of (them) /tu:wəv/
- to Italy /tu:wɪtəli:/
- see or hear /si:jo:hɪə/
- Three of (them) /θri:ɹjəv/
- he is /hi:z/

[w]-glide

you are / go out / go on / go away / too often / too easy / throw away / no objection /

no end / who else / to ask you / how old /

How old are you?

Who else saw it?

I didn't go out yesterday.

Try to do it yourself.

What are going to eat for lunch?

Do I have to do every question?

See you again. I hope.

STUDY QUESTIONS

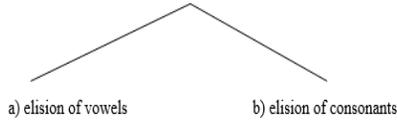
1. Why do we link words in connected speech?
2. Define linking R and provide three examples.
3. Define intrusive R and provide three examples.
4. Define intrusive W and provide three examples.
5. Define intrusive J and provide three examples.

ELISION (DELETION)

Many phonological processes present in connected speech are designed to ease the articulation of sequences of sounds. One of the most radical things that we can do to make a string of sounds easier to articulate is to omit one of them. This is known as **elision** or **deletion**. Obviously, the elision of sounds is not random, that is to say, we do not just drop any sound anywhere. In different languages there are different sounds which tend to be elided. And of course, they are not dropped always, otherwise they would disappear from the language altogether.

ELISION

- elision is the omission of sounds in connected speech



ELISION OF VOWELS

- elision of **weak (unstressed) vowels after /p, t, k/**

Potato	/pə'tetəʊ/ > /p'tetəʊ/
Tomato	/tə'mə:təʊ/ > /t'mə:təʊ/
Perhaps	/pə'hæps/ > /p'hæps/
Today	/tə'deɪ/ > /t'deɪ/

ELISION OF VOWELS

- elision of **weak (unstressed) vowels before /n, r, l/** (as a result of elision the consonants /n, r, l/ become syllabic consonants)

Tonight	/tə'nait/ > /t'nait/
Police	/pə'li:s/ > /p'li:s/
Correct	/kə'rekt/ > /k'rekt/

ELISION OF VOWELS

- elision of **weak (unstressed) vowels between two consonants:**

Average	/'ævərɪdʒ/ > /'ævrɪdʒ/
Novelist	/'nɒvəlɪst/ > /'nɒvlɪst/
Happening	/'hæpənɪŋ/ > /'hæpɪnɪŋ/

ELISION OF CONSONANTS

- the main aim is to avoid complex consonant clusters
- **2 or 3 plosives + a fricative > the plosive in the middle may disappear**

Acts	/ækt/ > /æks/
Looked back	/lʊkt bæk/ > /lʊk bæk/
Scripts	/skrɪpt/ > /skrɪps/

ELISION OF CONSONANTS

- **/d/ and /t/** - these consonants are usually elided when they are found **between two other consonants in the middle of a word:**

Christmas	/'krɪsməs/
Sandwich	/'sændwɪtʃ/ > /'sænwɪtʃ/

- **Or when they are found at the end of the first word and the following word begins in a consonant:**

Red and blue	/red ənd blu:/ > /red ən blu:/
Old car	/əʊld kɑ:/ > /əʊl kɑ:/
Changed clothes	/tʃeɪndʒd kləʊðz/ > /tʃeɪndʒ kləʊðz/

ELISION OF CONSONANTS

- elision of final /v/ before a consonant (when /v/ is a part of the preposition 'of'):
- lots of them /lots əv ðəm/ > /lots ə ðəm/
- waste of time /weist əv taim/ > /weist ə taim/

Identify the deleted sounds:

| 'əʊvəhɪərɪŋ kɒnvə'seɪŋz ɒn 'treɪnz kɪ bi ə'mju:zɪŋ | 'sɑ:mtaɪmz 'i:vŋ ə'lɑ:mɪŋ |
 səm 'jɪəz ə'gəʊ əɪ 'ju:s.ɪə 'træv | ɒn ðə *'lɑ:ndən 'lɑ:ndəgrɑʊnd ə 'get tə 'wɜ:k |
 kwɑ:t 'ɒfŋ əɪ ju:s.ɪə 'spen.ðə 'dʒɜ:nɪ 'mɑ:kɪŋ 'stju:dnts' 'wɜ:k | 'i:spɛʃli:
 fə'netɪk træn'skrɪpʃnz əv *'ɪŋglɪʃ | 'wʌn 'mɑ:nɪŋ ɪn 'sɑ:mə | ə 'gru:p əv 'tɔ:rɪs:
 gɒt ɪntə ðə 'kæərɪdʒ weər əɪ wəz 'sɪtɪŋ | ɪt wəz ən *'i:tæljən fæmli:² | hu wə
 'geʊrɪŋ ɪntə ðə 'sɛntə tə 'si: ðə 'sɑ:ts | 'wʌn əv ðəm sɛt 'neks.tə 'mi:⁴ |
 'ɑ:ftə³ ə 'fju: 'mɪnɪts | hi 'sɛd tu ɪz 'fæmli:² | ɪn *'i:tæljən əv 'kɔ:s | ðət i 'dɪdŋ⁶
 ŋəʊ 'wɒt əɪ wəz 'du:ɪŋ | ə'pærəntli:¹⁻⁷ əɪ 'si:ŋ.tə bi 'ri:dɪŋ 'θɪŋz ɪn ə 'veri
 pɪ'kju:lɪə 'læŋgwɪdʒ | əɪ sɛd 'hʌθɪŋ | bət dʒəz 'kæərɪd ɒn wɪð mɑɪ 'wɜ:k | ði
 'ɒd θɪŋ ɪz | ðət ɪg'zæʃli: ðə 'seɪm θɪŋ 'hæpɪŋ.ðə 'neks.tə:ɪnɪŋ | 'ðɪs tɑɪm ðə
 'mæn sɛd | ɪts 'hɪm⁸ | hɪz 'du:ɪŋ ɪt ə'gen | əɪ 'wʌndə wɒt ðæst⁹ 'fɑ:nɪ 'leɪŋɪŋ ɪz |

ðeɪ 'bɔ:l ke'lektɪd¹⁰ ə'raʊn mi | 'pɪərɪŋ 'əʊvə mɑɪ 'ʃəʊldə | əɪ 'kʊdn⁶ 'rɪzɪs.ðə
 'tʃæləndʒ | wɛn əɪ 'gɒt ɒf ðə 'treɪn | əɪ 'sɛd ɪn *'i:tæljən | əɪ 'həʊp ju 'bɔ:l
 'hæv¹¹ ə 'pleznt¹ ðeɪ | əɪ 'wɪʃ əɪ əd 'hæd¹¹ ə 'kæərɪd tə 'teɪk ə 'pɪktʃə³ əv ði
 ɪk'spreɪŋz ɒn ðəə 'feɪsɪz | ə'ɪnləðə 'tɑɪm əɪ wəz 'rɪəli 'plʌz.ðə ən ɪks'tʃeɪndʒ əɪ
 əʊvə'hɜ:d | 'tu: mɛn sɪtɪŋ 'ɒpəzɪt mi wə 'tɔ:kɪŋ | 'wʌn əv ðəm əɪ kʊd
 lɑ:ndə'stæɪn 'ps:fəldi | hi wəz 'tɔ:kɪŋ əbaut ə 'plɪ:s¹² 'reɪd | ðə 'trʌb | wɒz¹³ | əɪ
 'kʊdn⁶ 'meɪk 'aʊt ə 'wɜ:d əv 'wɒt ði 'lɒðə wəz 'ɑ:nəɪŋ | ɪt wəz 'ɑ:ftə³ əbaut
 'ten 'mɪnɪts ðət əɪ 'fɑ:nɪ 'rɪləz.ðə rɪ:zɪŋ | hi wɒzn⁶ 'spi:kɪŋ ɪn *'ɪŋglɪʃ ət 'bɔ:l |
 bət ɪn *'welʃ | 'wɑɪ ðeɪ 'tʃəʊz tə 'hæv¹¹ ə kɒnvə'seɪŋ ɪn 'tu: 'dɪfrɛnt¹ 'læŋgwɪdʒɪz
 ət ðə 'seɪm 'tɑɪm | əɪ 'dəʊŋ⁶ ŋəʊ |

STUDY QUESTIONS

- Define elision.
- Explain the three cases in which the elision of vowels occurs and illustrate them with examples.
- Explain the three cases in which the elision of consonants occurs and illustrate them with examples.