

Lesson 14

Part 1: Linking – Part I

In a previous lesson, you learned how the words “of eggs” sound like “**a veggs**” and “an apple” sounds like “**a napple.**”

This type of linking between two words is very common – it’s one of the reasons that natural spoken English sounds “fast,” making it hard to hear where one word ends and the next word begins. Practicing this technique will help you speak faster and more naturally, with fewer pauses.

When a word ending in a consonant sound is followed by a word beginning in a vowel sound, the final sound of the first word either acts as a “connection” between the two words (as in **pass out** – the S sound continues until the beginning of the word “out”) or even “moves” to the beginning of the next word (as in **wake up**, which sounds like “way cup”).

This is especially common in phrasal verbs:

εεε. **help out**
 = *hell pout*

φφφ. **turn off**
 = *tur noff*

γγγ. **hold on**
 = *hol don*

ηηη. **come in**
 = *co min*

ιιι. **look after**
 = *loo kafter*

Let’s practice with some example phrases and sentences:

Linking with N

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φφφ.	an apple = a napple
κκκ.	an ocean = a nocean
λλλ.	an idiot = a nidiot
μμμ.	an alternative = a nalternative
ννν.	an egg = a negg
ooo.	one evening = wa nevening
πππ.	one artist = wa nartist
θθθ.	one orange = wa norange
ρρρ.	one option = wa noption
σσσ.	one umbrella = wa numbrella

Linking with M

τττ.	What ti <u>me is</u> it?
υυυ.	She ca <u>me out</u> of the house.
ϖϖϖ.	We saw so <u>me an</u> imals.
ωωω.	Sam <u>and</u> Jim <u>a</u> re here.

Linking with L

ξξξ.	I feel <u>l</u> okay.
ψψψ.	Fi <u>ll up</u> the tank. = Fi lup the tank.
ζζζ.	Wi <u>ll any</u> body help me?
ααα.	Tell <u>us all a</u> bout it.

Linking with R

ββββ.	It's too far <u>r</u> away.
χχχχ.	Did you hear <u>r</u> any news?
δδδδ.	The store <u>re is</u> closed.
εεεε.	I want more <u>re</u> ice cream.
φφφφ.	You' <u>re a</u> bsolutely right.

These two sentences are extra difficult – I'll say them both slow and fast!

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- γγγγ. Where re are all the papers?
ηηηη. Where re are all our employees?

Linking with S and Z

- ιιιι. Let's s ask permission.
φφφφ. It's s always s unny.
κκκκ. Your wallet's s under the chair.
λλλλ. That's s outrageous!
μμμμ. She's s interested in politics.
νννν. He's s ugly.
οοοο. The movie was s awful.
ππππ. Those se apples s are rotten.

Linking with T, D, K, and P

- θθθθ. The food d is cold.
ρρρρ. Please send d all the letters.
σσσσ. We tried d everything.
ττττ. I need d eight dollars.
υυυυ. Great t idea!
ϖϖϖϖ. I slept t in yesterday.
ωωωω. We got t off the bus.
ξξξξ. They missed d out on the party.
ψψψψ. Can you help p us?
ζζζζ. I can't stop p eating sweets.
ααααα. Let's look k around.
βββββ. They'll take ke over the company.

How is it possible to remember these links while speaking English? Well, the fact is that it's not really necessary to think about them consciously – you just need to practice them, as you did in this lesson, and this will help you develop the habit so that you will make the connections automatically while talking.



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You've finished part 1 of this lesson. In this lesson, we practiced linking consonants and vowels;

In the next part , we'll practice consonant-consonant and vowel-vowel links.

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Part 2 : Linking – Part II

We'll continue to practice linking with pairs of consonants and vowels.

When the end of one word and the beginning of the next word have the same sound, the two words “share” the sound, with no pause in between them – like in the phrase **phone number**. We continue the N sound at the end of **phone** directly into the beginning of the word **number**.

We'll practice this with examples from the two types of consonants in English 8- “stops” and “continuous sounds.” The T, D, K, G, P, and B sounds are **stops** – they are quick and explosive sounds, that are made in a single moment. All the other sounds like L, R, S, and V are **continuous** – because we can extend the sound for some time, like this: LLLL, RRRR, SSSS, VVVV.

Linking Continuous Sounds

Continuous sounds are easy to link, because we just continue the end of the first word into the beginning of the second word, as in the example with **phone number**. Practice with these phrases and sentences:

enough food

We have enoughgh food for everyone.

have very

I haveve very good friends.

both things

I like bothth



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things. soo**th**e

the

This lotion will help soo**th**e **th**e irritation.

looks s**o**

He loo**k**s s**o** happy.

wish s**h**e

I wi**sh** s**h**e hadn't said that.

some m**o**re

Can I have so**m**e m**o**re juice?

one n**i**ght

We spent o**n**e n**i**ght in a hotel.

whole l**o**t

He won a wh**o**l**e** lot of money in the lottery.

you're r**e**ally

You'r**e** really late.

We can also link two similar continuous sounds, even if they are not exactly the same. For example, in the phrase "have faith." V and F are almost the same sound, but the V is voiced and the F is unvoiced.



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We can still link them, like this:

havvvvfffaith ha**ve** faith

Practice linking similar sounds with a few more examples:

F/V

love free

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was sitting

S/Z I wasssitting in the park.

has something

He hasssomething to say.

Unvoiced TH / Voiced TH

with the

The kids played withth the toys.

both these

Bothth these machines are broken.

Linking Stops

When we link two stops, the transition between the words is very fast – it almost sounds like one word:

take care

I'll take care of your dogs.

all takara yer dogs.



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When you combine the linking in “take care” with the other reductions and pronunciation changes (I’ll → all, of → a, your → yer), it makes the sentence sound completely different from what you would expect!

Let’s do a few linking exercises with stops:

help prepare

I can helppprepare the presentation.

last time

The lastttime I wenttto Europe was seven years ago.

bad day

I’m having a baddday.

big gift

We gave our mother a bigggift.

bank closes

The bankkcloses early today.

Linking Two Vowels

Do you know the Nike slogan: “Just do it”?

Listen carefully to the pronunciation – it sounds like there is a small W sound between **do** and **it**:

Jus duwit

When the first word ends in a vowel sound and the second word also begins in a vowel sound, we can link them with a small W sound or Y sound:



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You always get so angry.

Youwalways get sowangry.

He asked me out.

Heyasked meyout.

Practice with these ten sentences, trying to imitate my pronunciation as closely as possible:

1. I yate the yice cream.
2. I yonly work on weekends.
3. The yend of the book was surprising.
4. She yanswered the phone.
5. I yunderstood the yexplanation.
6. Do wall the student have textbooks?
7. Who winvited him to the wedding?
8. Your shoe wis untied.
9. I'm saving up money so wI can travel.
10. We yarrived too wearly.

Next Lesson, we'll practice intonation – how to add emotion to your spoken English.

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Homework:

14: Parts 1 & 2 Practice Linking:

Is it true that you didn't give Professor Todd your history report? It was due a week ago. Yeah, the truth is, I lost it. What? You lost your report? The report you worked on for three weeks? Yes, I'm so embarrassed. I wrote it, but I didn't print it, and now I can't find it on my hard drive. Did you check all your folders? Yes, I was sure I put it in my Documents folder. But it's just not there. Did you tell Professor Todd? Not yet, but I'll have to do it soon. I'm not looking forward to this. Wait, did you look in the trash? No, I didn't think of that. Look! Here it is, in my trash folder! I'm saved!

References:

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