

# Native-like Accent Pronunciation Course



## Lesson 13: Part 1: Reductions – Part I

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In this lesson and the coming ones, we're going to learn some of the pronunciation changes that occur in "weak words" in spoken English. This will help you not only with your pronunciation, but also with your listening.

Two examples of reductions that you probably already know are:

- going to → gonna  
*I'm gonna take piano lessons.*
- want to → wanna  
*I wanna practice my English.*

Let's start there – with reductions of the word "to."

### TO → TA or A

have to → hafta

has to → hasta

*I hafta work on this project; it hasta be finished by Friday.*

wants to → wantsta

*Jim wantsta get a haircut.*

*Who wantsta order a pizza?*

wanted to → wanteda

*I've always wanteda be a pilot.*

*She wanteda learn how ta sing.*

like to → liketa

*I liketa listen a classical music.*

*Wouldja liketa go fer a walk?*



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trying to → tryna

*Be quiet – I'm tryna study.*

*He's tryna fix the  
computer.*

## YOU → YA / JA

The word “you” often sounds like “ya” in fast spoken English.

- *D'**ya** have the time?*
- *Have **ya** bought the tickets?*
- *Will **ya** get here by 8?*
- *Are **ya** interested in sports?*
- ***Ya** never mentioned that.*
- *Make sure **ya** bring a jacket.*

This often happens in **questions** and when the word “you” is at the beginning or middle of the sentence. When “you” is the last word, then it's often pronounced normally. Compare these sentences:

- *I wanna talk to **you**.*
- *I wanna tell **ya** something.*
- *She likes **you**.*
- *She'd like **ya** ta call her.*

When “you” comes after a word ending in the letter D, it often sounds like “ja”:

- ***Wouldja** like a drink?*
- ***Couldja** gimme a hand?*
- ***Didja** know about this?*

## OR, FOR, YOUR & YOU'RE → ER, FER, YER

- *Wouldja like coffee **er** tea?*
- *Should we go to the mall **er** the park?*



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- *D'ya have a pen **er** a pencil I could borrow?*
- *This is **fer** you.*
- *I'm looking **fer** my keys.*
- *We asked **fer** an extra blanket.*
- ***Yer** shoe's untied.*
- *I know **yer** upset.*
- *Is this **yer** purse?*
- ***Yer** a genius!*

## WE'RE → WER

In a similar way, the word “we’re,” which is the short form of “we are,” often sounds like “wer”:

- ***Wer** gonna visit the capital.*
- *I think **wer** lost.*
- ***Wer** not very hungry.*
- ***Wer** thinkin about it.*
- ***Wer** not Italian, **wer** Spanish.*

## I'M / I'LL → AM / ALL

In the contractions “I’m” and “I’ll,” we usually pronounce the “I” more like “a”  
7- so “I’m” becomes “am” and “I’ll” sounds like “all.”

- α. Sorry, **am** busy at the moment.*
- β. Yeah, **am** enjoying the class.*
- χ. **Am** really annoyed.*
- δ. **All** be out of town next week.*
- ε. **All** hafta work late today.*
- φ. I can't talk now, but **all** call ya later.*
- γ. **Am** pretty sure **all** pass the test.*

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## CAN → KIN

As mentioned in the last lesson, the word “can” is often pronounced very fast, like “kin.”

*η. I **kin** meet with ya Next Lesson,.*

*ι. He **kin** speak five languages.*

*φ. They **kin** join us fer dinner.*

*κ. **Kin** ya gimme a call?*

*λ. **Kin** we start the meeting?*

*μ. **Kin** yer brother pick us up?*

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## Lesson 13

### Part 2: Reductions – Part II

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Ready to learn and practice more reductions? Let's focus on a few more "extreme" reductions with the words **of** and **and**, as well as the **disappearing H and T sounds**.

#### OF → A

The word **of** is often pronounced like **a**. You can practice this reduction with a "shopping list":

- v. A bag **a** chips
- o. A jar **a** jam
- π. A piece **a** fruit
- θ. A carton **a** milk
- ρ. A bar **a** soap
- σ. A can **a** beer
- τ. A bottle **a** wine
- υ. A box **a** matches

This reduction only happens when the following word begins with a consonant. When the word after "of" begins with a vowel, we pronounce the word normally.

Compare these sentences:

- Ϙ. It's made **a** cheese
- ω. It's made **of** eggs  
"a veggs"

Notice how the V sound in "of" is linked to the word eggs: "of eggs" sounds like "a veggs."



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ξ. A bowl **a** soup

ψ. A bowl **of** oatmeal

*"a voatmeal"*

ζ. A gallon **a** juice

αα. A gallon **of** ice cream

*"a vice cream"*

ββ. A couple **a** pears

χχ. A couple **of** apples

*"a vapples"*

δδ. I ate a slice **a** the cake.

εε. I ate a slice **of** an apple.

*"oven apple"*

## AND → N

The word "and" often gets shortened to "n." Practice this with these "binomials" in English. A binomial is a common pair of two words that are linked together by a conjunction:

φφ. She walked back **n** forth.

γγ. I bought some pots **n** pans.

ηη. I hear you loud **n** clear.

ιι. Life has many ups **n** downs.

φφ. We won fair **n** square.

κκ. I'm sick **n** tired of this.

λλ. The kids are safe **n** sound.

## Disappearing H and T

You may remember from the lesson about T that this sound often disappears – especially after N and S. This is why we pronounce "want to" as "wanna." It's common to drop the T at the end of **isn't**, **don't**, **doesn't**, and **didn't**:



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- μμ. *Isn* she beautiful?  
νν. We *don* wanna be late.  
οο. He *doesn* know anything.  
ππ. I *didn* like the movie.

The H sound is also often dropped, especially in **he**, **him**, **his**, and **her** – and often, the shortened word gets “attached” to the previous word:

- θθ. Where *doesee* live?  
ρρ. I *gavim* a call.  
σσ. We *metis* wife.  
ττ. *Asker* about it.

This is also common in the various forms of **have**:

- υυ. I *ave* a problem.  
ϖϖ. Where *ve* you been?  
ωω. We *aven't* been there yet.  
ξξ. Why *asn ee* finished the  
work? (Why **hasn't he**  
finished the work?)

You can see in this last example that there are three disappearing sounds: the H and the T from **hasn't**, and the H from **he**.

The word **has** is usually shortened to 's when used as an auxiliary verb as in the present perfect:

- ψψ. John's gone to bed.  
= John **has** gone to bed.  
ζζ. She's never tried it.  
ααα. My computer's just crashed.

But when used as a main verb, we often drop the H to *as*:

- βββ. He *as* a new car.

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χχχ. She **as** three cats.

δδδ. My brother **as** the flu.

## Homework:

13: Parts 1 & 2- Practice pronouncing the reductions given in the lesson



### **References:**

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