

And what's his name?

Strong and weak forms 2:

Possessives, conjunctions, prepositions

A

Many possessives, conjunctions and prepositions have two different pronunciations – a strong form and a weak form. Normally we use the weak form, but if the word is stressed because it is especially important, or because we want to show a contrast, we use the strong form.

	weak	strong
your	/jə/ *	/jɔ:/ *
his	/ɪz/	/hɪz/
their	/ðə/ *	/ðeə/ *
and	/ən/ or /ənd/	/ænd/
but	/bət/	/bʌt/
some	/səm/	/sʌm/
that	/ðət/	/ðæt/
at	/ət/	/æt/
for	/fə/ *	/fɔ:/ *
from	/frəm/	/frɒm/
of	/əv/	/ɒv/
to **	/tə/	/tu/

* The r at the end of these words is pronounced before a vowel (see Unit 22).

What's your address?

What was their answer?

Come in for a minute.

**to is pronounced /tu:/ before a vowel sound.

to a party

B



Listen to the difference, and repeat.

Give me your **hand**! (your is weak)

A: Your **turn**! (your is strong)

B: No, it's your **turn**! (your is strong)

A: That's our new neighbour.

B: And what's his **name**? (and and his are weak)

A: No, her! (her is strong)

B: Oh, sorry. What's her **name**? (her is strong)

A: She must be rich – look at her **car**! (her is weak)

B: I think that's his **car**, actually! (his is strong)

A: They've sold their old house, I see. (their is weak)

B: They've sold their house, yes, but they haven't bought another one yet. (their is strong)

A: Would you like some ice **cream** or some **cake**? (some is weak)

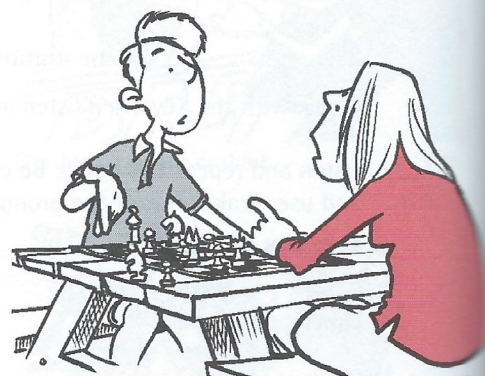
B: I'd like some ice cream and some cake, please! (and is strong, some is weak)

A: Do you like those **sweets**? (do and you are weak)

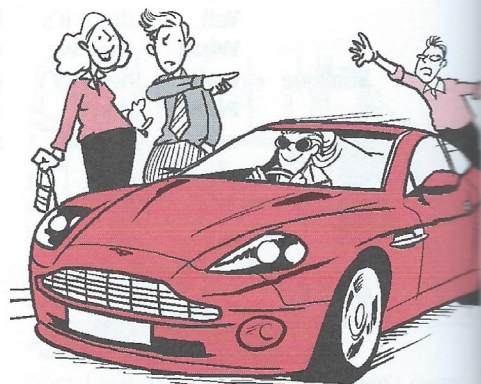
B: Well, some of them are good. (some is strong, of and them are weak)

The shop's closed from one to two. (from and to are weak)

There's a bus to the village at six, but there's no bus back from there tonight. (to and from are strong, at is weak)



Your turn!



She must be rich – look at her car!

Exercises

38.1 Listen and mark the underlined words *w* (weak) or *s* (strong).



- 1 They went out and left their children at home.
- 2 Don't sit there – that's his seat.
- 3 Is this the train to London or from London?
- 4 I didn't say at five o'clock, I said about five o'clock.
- 5 What are you going to do?
- 6 His first name's Jack, but I don't know his second name.
- 7 Would you like some more tea?
- 8 Bring your umbrella – it's going to rain.
- 9 Excuse me – is this your umbrella?
- 10 Can you go and buy some bread and milk, please?
- 11 You've bought some flowers – who are they for?
- 12 I bought them for you!

Check with the Key. Then listen again and repeat.

38.2 Read and listen to these poems. Then listen again and repeat. Be careful to speak with the correct rhythm.

Use the weak form of *and*.



You and me

you and me
cake and tea
bread and cheese
twos and threes
this and that
thin and fat
left and right
day and night
now and then
where and when

Use the weak form of *of*.



Relaxing

a cup of tea
a new CD
a bottle of wine
and plenty of time

Use the weak form of *but*.



Making plans

A walk? But it's too late.
To the town? But it's too far.
Some sightseeing? But it's too dark.
A restaurant? But it's too expensive.
A game of chess? But it's so boring.
Read a book? But my eyes are so tired.
Study some English? But it's so difficult.
But let's do something. OK, what?

Use the weak form of *at*.



I remember it well

We met at a conference.
Or maybe at a party.
A party at a hotel.
Or perhaps at someone's house.
It was at lunchtime.
No, it was late at night.
Yes, and you were sitting at a table.
Or maybe standing at a window.
You looked at me and smiled.
No, you looked at me and laughed at me.
Yes, I remember it well.

Use the weak form of *your*.



A change of plan

Eat your sandwich.
Drink your tea.
Comb your hair.
Brush your teeth.
Put your shoes on.
Pack your bag.
Get your keys.
Ready?
What do you mean, you've changed your mind?



Making plans