**Thought Group Practice**

**Explanation**

Spoken English is divided into **thought groups,** which can be a simple sentence or other short group of words. **A thought group is a group of words that naturally go together.** Spoken English that is clear and easy to understand is spoken in short thought groups, which divide the information so that the listener can more easily understand.

Thought groups include these elements:

* A pause in between each thought group
* Falling intonation at the end of the thought group
* A slight lengthening of the last stressed syllable
* Usually a connected grammar structure

The speaker’s emotions and/or intent can change the number of thought groups used. For example, an academic presentation will generally have more thought groups than an informal conversation between friends. Thought groups can also change the meaning of the sentence.

**Practice -** Listen to this video starting at 1:45: <https://www.ted.com/talks/hetain_patel_who_am_i_think_again>

Notice that although the woman is not a native speaker of English, her speech is clear and easy to understand. A slash (/) has been marked to show the end of the first thought group. Mark the rest of the thought groups that she uses in the transcript below using a slash (/).

As a child / I would hate/ being made to wear the Indian kurta pajama/ because/ I didn't think it was very cool/ it felt a bit girly to me /like a dress /and it had this baggy trouser part/ you had to tie really tight to avoid the embarrassment of them falling down/ my dad /never wore it /so I didn't see why I had to /also it makes me feel a bit/ uncomfortable/ that people assume I represent something genuinely Indian/ when I wear it /because that's not how I feel /actually/ the only way I feel comfortable wearing it/ is by pretending /they are the robes of a kung fu warrior/ like Li Mu Bai from that film /Crouching Tiger /Hidden Dragon /okay /so my artwork /is about identity and language /challenging common assumptions /based on how we look like/ or where we come from/ gender/ race/ class/ what makes us who we are anyway