

Lesson 7: Consonant elision

In good, natural speech, not every consonant is pronounced. Speech should flow smoothly. When a word finishes with the same consonant the next word starts with, we glide the two sounds into one with a slight pressure hold.

Similarly, if a word finishes with a consonant made with the same speech organs in the same position as the consonant starting the next word, we lose the first consonant. Consonants /t, d, l, n/ are made with the tip of the tongue against the alveolar ridge.

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🔊 Word pairs

Listen and repeat the following word pairs, noting that each pair sounds like one word.

hot_tea, dead_duck, don't_dare, red_lion, soap_powder,
bus_stop, Prime_Minister, real_loser, with_them,
look_closely, stop_please!

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🔊 Sentences

Listen and repeat. Read each sentence aloud slowly at first, then as if you were telling it to someone in a natural way.

1. Mad_dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun.
2. The horse was too tired just_to trot_to Teddington.
3. I need_to know what_train to catch.
4. Big_goats and black_cats don't mix.
5. I love thick_cream with my spotted_dick pudding.
6. Don't_take the second_turning after the lamp_post or you'll get lost.
7. Have you had_dinner? If not try some pork_crackling.



8. Because I don't_know my pin_number I can't_draw any money out.

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🔊 Dialogue: Flat Search

Listen and repeat the following dialogues, noting not only the consonant elision, but also inflection and intonation.

HE: What sort of property are you looking to rent, Madam?

SHE: Well – in a nutshell, something small and reasonable.

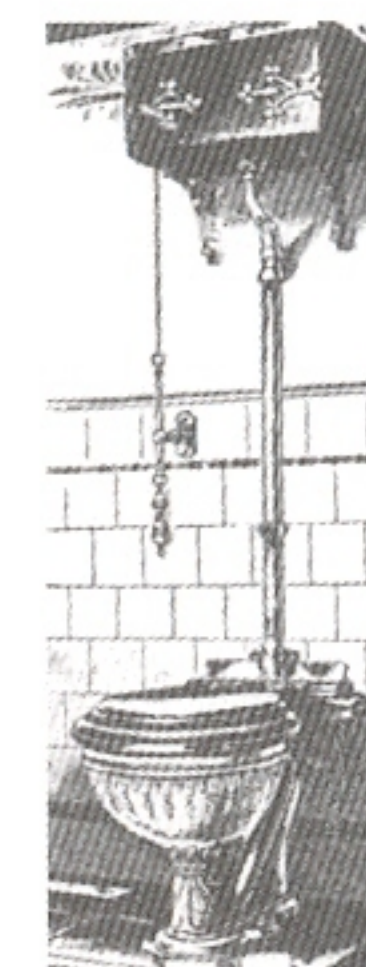
HE: If you said large and expensive perhaps I could possibly accommodate you.

SHE: There must be something you could find for me.

HE: We do have a small studio flat in Surbiton in_need of some attention.

SHE: Do you think it would suit me?

HE: It's up to you, Madam. Personally, I wouldn't_touch it with a bargepole.



Task: Read the following idioms and colloquial expressions with examples. Note consonant elision. Make up your own sentences using the examples.

1. The worst case scenario.

Meaning: All things considered, this would be the worst that could happen.

If we have to cancel this holiday, the worst case_scenario is that would lose our deposit.

2. Not_to put too fine a point on it.

Meaning: Without being too precise or pedantic.

Not to put too fine a point on it, in my opinion the man is a complete idiot!

3. I wouldn't touch it with a barge pole.

Meaning: I wouldn't go anywhere near it.

This divorce case has too many complications, I wouldn't touch it with a barge pole.

4. Let's get to grips with this.

Meaning: Let's look at all the facts and try and solve the problem.

We've had so many problems with this project for so long now, it's time we got to grips with it and sorted it out.