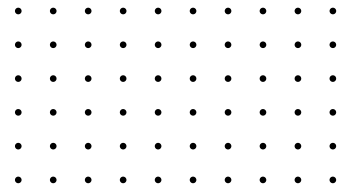




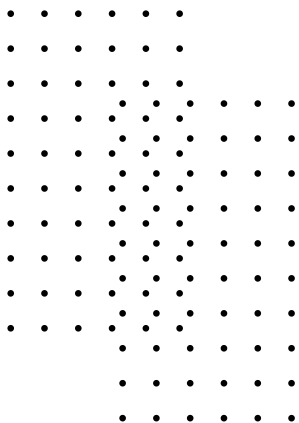
Keith
Speaking
Academy



ONE HACK

TO UNDERSTAND FAST ENGLISH

KEITH O'HARE



Helping you Become a Confident English Speaker



Many IELTS students lack confidence in their speaking skills.

The Keith Speaking Academy helps you develop your speaking skills so you can face the examiner with confidence and ace the IELTS test.

This PDF is one of many that Keith has developed to help you do this.

Keith has been working in international education for over 20 years as a teacher, teacher trainer, and education manager.

He has helped over 40,000 students prepare for their IELTS Speaking test with his online courses.

Do you struggle understanding native speakers when they speak fast in films and everyday conversations?

Maybe you have taken time to learn English and to build your knowledge of grammar and done lots of reading to learn new words, but when it comes to **understanding native speakers**, you still find it really difficult.

If this is you, then you will love this lesson that will show you one simple hack to help you **understand fast English**



The first step to understand fast English

The simple hack to better understand native English speakers, is to realise that they (I should say 'we' as I am also a native speaker), use **contractions** all the time in spoken English. So what you are expecting to hear is different from we will say.

A simple example is that when I introduce myself you may expect me to say '**I am English**', but I will rarely say that, I will usually say '**I'm English**'.

This is a contraction, where 2 words become one, or more accurately, two words become one sound. So '**I**' and '**am**' become '**I'm**'.

We call this a contraction, because the verb 'to contract' means to make smaller. We are in effect making the sound smaller.

If you can learn to really hear these contractions, and know what they mean when you hear them, you will start to better understand fast English.

Yes, there are several other factors at play when you listen, and this alone is not the only solution to better listening skills, but it is a great place to start.

The most common English contractions

Let's look at the most common contractions you need to be able to identify.

Contraction	Pronunciation	Full form	Examples
Aren't	/ɑːnt/	Are not	They aren't going to come
She's	/ʃɪz/ (if unstressed) /ʃiːz/ (if stressed)	She is	She's angry
		She has	She's got blue eyes
He's	/hɪz/ or /ɪz/ (if unstressed) /hiːz/ (if stressed)	He is	He's English
		He has	He's arrived
I'll	/aɪl/	I will	I'll help you
I won't	/wəʊnt/	I will not	I won't help you
Didn't	/dɪd ənt/	Did not	He didn't come
Couldn't	/kʊd ənt/	Could not	I couldn't agree more
Shouldn't	/ʃʊd ənt/	Should not	You shouldn't have said that
Wouldn't	/wʊd ənt/	Would not	I wouldn't like to be famous

Tips for improving your English listening skills

If you want to develop your listening skills, I suggest when you are watching films, TV series or Youtube videos, you do **not** use subtitles.

Subtitles can be useful for helping you learning vocabulary, but if your focus is on developing your listening skills, don't use them, not even in your own language.

Of course, if you have a lower level of English, you may use them to help you understand sometimes, and even translate from your mother tongue.

However try to create a habit of spending as much time watching videos without subtitles, as you do watching with them with subtitles.

This way, you will push yourself to improve your listening skills and step by step get better at understanding native English speakers.



Find out more about my online GOLD course

IELTS SPEAKING SUCCESS - GET A BAND 7+ GOLD

