

3 PRONUNCIATION & LISTENING

linking

- a Read the information about a radio phone-in show. Who or what are the 'Time Bandits'?

The Time Bandits

They creep up on us when we least expect it and steal one of the things we value most – our time. They are the time bandits – the people (and situations) that waste our precious minutes and make life even more of a rush.

How can we stop the time bandits?

Call our expert, Richard Anderson, and tell us about your 'time bandits' and find out how to deal with them.

- b 2.6 Before you listen to the whole programme, listen and complete some extracts.
- 1 I think that's a common problem _____ of us.
 - 2 _____ don't complain out loud...
 - 3 _____ I've got this friend of mine and...
 - 4 _____ on time.
 - 5 It's just _____ time.
 - 6 It's been _____ to you...
- c Read the information about linking. Then look back at the extracts. Which words are linked? Why? Now practise saying the sentences and phrases trying to link the words.

Linking

When people talk quickly, they usually link words together, i.e. the sound at the end of one word is linked to the sound at the beginning of the next. Being aware of linking will help you understand rapid speech better, and make your own English sound more natural. Some of the rules for linking words are:

- 1 A consonant sound at the end of a word is linked to a vowel sound at the beginning of the next, e.g. *I met him a long time ago.*
- 2 When a word ending in *-r* or *-re* (e.g. *are*) is followed by a word beginning with a vowel sound, an */r/* sound is added to link the words together, e.g. *We're early.*
- 3 When a word ending with a consonant sound is followed by a word beginning with the same consonant sound, one long consonant sound is made, e.g. *I need some more time.*



- d 2.7 Now listen to five callers to the radio show. Write a sentence to summarize their problem.
- Caller 1 *She wastes a lot of time talking to a friend on the phone.*
Advice ☐
- Caller 2 _____
Advice ☐
- Caller 3 _____
Advice ☐
- Caller 4 _____
Advice ☐
- Caller 5 _____
Advice ☐
- e With a partner, imagine you are the expert. Discuss and decide what advice you might give the five callers.
- f 2.8 Now listen to the expert's advice (A–E), and match them to the problems.
- g 2.9 Listen to the whole programme and check your answers to f. Was any of the expert's advice similar to yours? What differences were there?
- h Do you have any 'time bandits'? What do you do about them? Are there any ideas in the advice the expert gave that you might use?

4 VOCABULARY expressions with *time*

a Can you remember the missing words in these sentences?

- 1 ...w_____ my **time** really, waiting for people.
- 2 I have kids and I work full time, so as you can imagine
I don't have much **sp**_____ **time**.
- 3 My friend swears it s_____ her a lot of **time**.
- 4 Tell them you're a bit s_____ of **time** today.
- 5 Right, I'm afraid **time's** u_____ for now, but thank you all for your calls...

b 2.10 Listen to the extracts and check. What do the expressions mean?

c  p.159 Vocabulary Bank *time*.

5 SPEAKING

Work with a partner and answer the questions in the *Time questionnaire*.

Time questionnaire

About you

- ☐ On a typical weekday morning, are you normally pushed for time?
- ☐ Do you have any electronic gadgets which you think really save you time?
- ☐ What do you usually do to kill time when you're waiting at an airport or at a station?
- ☐ When you go shopping, do you like to buy things as quickly as possible or do you prefer to take your time?
- ☐ Is there anything or anybody who is taking up a lot of your time at the moment?
- ☐ Are you usually on time when you meet friends? Does it bother you when other people aren't on time?
- ☐ Do you like to get to the airport or station with time to spare or at the last minute?
- ☐ When you were younger, did your parents give you a hard time if you came back home late?
- ☐ When you do an exam, do you tend to have time left at the end or do you usually run out of time?

Do you agree?

- ☐ Both partners need to take the same amount of time off when they have a baby.
- ☐ Retired people have too much time on their hands. They should be encouraged to carry on working longer.
- ☐ Everyone would benefit from seeing a psychotherapist from time to time.
- ☐ By the time they are 21, all young people should be living independently of their parents.
- ☐ It's only a question of time before governments impose a complete ban on alcohol and smoking.

