

Pronunciation: Joining Words

When native English speakers talk, they often connect two words together. For example, the sentence "It's not true!" could be pronounced as a single word: "Itsnottrue!". This is especially common if the speaker is talking quickly. One way to make your English sound more natural is to practice linking your own words. It can also make English easier to understand. Often what sounds like one long word is actually several short words joined together.



1. Read the statements below out loud and try to link the underlined words.

- The bus leaves at 9.
- I love ice-cream.
- I got lost on my way home.
- Does he want to book a room?
- His teeth are really white.
- He bought a really ugly suit.
- That's such a waste of money!

If a word ends in the same sound as the start of the next word, the two words are often connected using a single sound. For example, "I want to" could be pronounced as "I wanto."

Sometimes when a word ends with a similar sound to the sound at the start of the next word, one of the sounds is cut out. For example, "I need to sleep" could be pronounced as "I needo sleep" (note the "d" sound has been cut out).



2. Read the statements out loud and link the underlined words using a single sound.

- The jumper is dark grey. (*dargrey*)
- I always sleep better after I work out. (*sleebetter*)
- We should tell him. (*shoultell*)
- My cat needs some food. (*needsome*)
- My date threw water in my face! (*threwater*)
- Everyone in town knows him. (*townoes*)
- He never ran again after his surgery. (*neveran and hisurgery*)



3. Find the words that naturally “connect” (words that have similar or the same sounds at the end to the beginning sound of the next word) and read the sentence out loud with the words connected.

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| a) Do you know where an ATM is? | (eg. “knowwhere”) |
| b) What do you want? | (<i>whado</i>) |
| c) He sleeps so much, I’m jealous! | (<i>sleepso</i>) |
| d) We rented a car and drove north through the mountains. | (<i>northrough</i>) |
| e) e) In my opinion android phones are the best. | (<i>lmyopinion</i>) |
| f) They are really starting to improve. | (<i>areally</i>) |
| g) The big green house is really nice. | (<i>bigreen</i>) |

Sometimes when one word ends in a vowel and the next word begins in a vowel, a “y” sound is added in between them. For example the words “three apples” would be pronounced “threeyapples”.



4. Find the words that would have a “y” sound added between them and read the sentences out loud.

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|--|-----------------------|
| a) Would you prefer tea or coffee? | (eg. “teayorcoffe”) |
| b) We all want to help. | (<i>weyall</i>) |
| c) Is the magazine free or do I have to pay? | (<i>freeyor</i>) |
| d) He isn’t ready for high school. | (<i>heyisn’t</i>) |
| e) I hardly ever see you anymore. | (<i>hardlyever</i>) |
| f) I wanted to be a ninja when I was 10 years old. | (<i>beya</i>) |
| g) My boss told me to always be early. | (<i>beyearly</i>) |

Sometimes a “y” sound is added between two vowels, but sometimes a “w” sound is added in between them. For example, the words “two apples” would be pronounced “twowapples”.



5. Find the words that would have a “w” sound added between them and read the sentences out loud.

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|--|---------------------------|
| a) We have to go over the bridge. | (eg. “gowover”) |
| b) The test was so easy. | (<i>soweasy</i>) |
| c) I need to eat before we leave. | (<i>toweat</i>) |
| d) Is this true or are you lying to me? | (<i>truewor</i>) |
| e) We need to offer them something more. | (<i>towoffer</i>) |
| f) She has blonde hair and blue eyes. | (<i>blueweyes</i>) |
| g) Hello everyone, thank you for coming. | (<i>helloweveryone</i>) |