

Fluency Booster

Background: For many students, speaking is the skill that they would like to improve the most. However, many students experience problems with linking sounds together in an English sentence. At the same time, it can be difficult to understand native English speakers outside of a classroom setting. This is because native English speakers use a variety of strategies to link words together. If you learn these techniques, you will be able to sound much more fluent and it will probably help your comprehension too.

Technique 1

Add a Y sound between certain words

Explanation: When a word ends with a vowel sound and the next word in the sentence also begins with a vowel sound, native English speakers sometimes add a light Y sound between the words to make the transition easier.

Here are some very common examples:

He is [hee^yiz]



He is.m4a

She is [shee^yiz]



She is.m4a

I am [ai^yem]



I am.m4a

We are [wee^yar]



We are.m4a

Technique 2

Add a W sound between certain words

Explanation: Other times, when a word ends with a vowel sound and the next word in the sentence also begins with a vowel sound, we add a light W sound.

Here are some common examples:

You are [yoo^war]



You are.m4a

Who are [who^war]



Who are.m4a

do it [doo^wit]



do it.m4a

too old [too^wold]



too old.m4a

Technique 3

Connecting one word to another

Explanation: Most times, when a word ends in a consonant sound and the next word starts with a vowel sound, we put the consonant sound at the beginning of the second word. This causes the two words to sound like they are one word.

Here are some examples:

I was in trouble. [wazin]



I was in trouble.m4a

What is this about? [whatiz] [thissabout]



What is this about.m4a

We were about to go. [werabout]



We were about to go.m4a

We got some take out food. [takout]



We got some take out food.m4a

Technique 4

Drop some letters

Explanation: Sometimes the sounds of some letters are reduced or not said at all. This allows English speakers to combine two words that normally couldn't be joined.

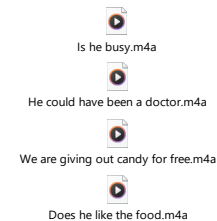
Here are some examples:

Is he busy? [izee bizee?]

He could have been a doctor. [he couldabin a dokter]

We are giving out candy for free. [we^var givenout candy fer free]

Does he like the food? [duzee like the food?]



Technique 5

Learn these linked expressions

Explanation: Here is a list of expression that you should just memorize and use when you are speaking casually with other people.

The List:

Going to = gonna



Want to = wanna



Should have = shoulda



Could have = coulda



might have = mighta



have to = hafta



got to = gotta



would have = woulda



Link the Words

Instructions: Look through the sentences below and try to find places where you could add W and Y sounds between the words. After, try reading the sentences to practice and improve your fluency.

1. Is he going to open his presents?
2. Who does he have to give his essay to?
3. It is not too expensive when you are rich.
4. You should have given up on becoming an author.
5. I don't want to, but he is making us go shopping.

Answer Key

1. Is he going to open his presents. = Izee gonna openiz presents? **OR** Izee going to^wopeniz presents?
2. Who does he have to give his essay to? = Who duzee hafta givizessay to?
3. It is not too expensive when you are rich. = Itiz not too^wexpensiv when you^war rich.
4. You should have given up on becoming an author. = You shoulda givenupon becominanauthor.
5. I don't want to, but he is making us go shopping. = I don't wanna, but hee^yiz makinus go shopping.