**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.

**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:**

Technique 1

Add a Y sound between certain words

He is [heeyiz] I am [aiyem]

She is [sheeyiz] We are [weeyar]

**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:**



Technique 2

Add a W sound between certain words

You are [yoowar] do it [doowit]

Who are [whowar] too old [toowold]

**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.

Technique 3

Connecting one word to another

**Here are some examples:**

I **was in** trouble. [wazin] **What is** **this about**? [whatiz] [thissabout]

We **were about** to go. [werabout] We got some **take out** food. [takout]

**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.

Technique 4

Drop some letters

**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. [weyar givenout candy fer free]

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

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 might have = mighta

Want to = wanna have to = hafta

Should have = shoulda got to = gotta

Could have = coulda 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 towopeniz 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 toowexpensiv when youwar 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 heeyiz makinus go shopping.