L12: Linking / Assimilation

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Various things can happen at word boundaries:
- linking
- deletion
- coalescence
- assimilation

**Linking**

If a word begins with a vowel, it is linked to the previous word:
- one egg
- two eggs
- three eggs
- four eggs

**Linking Consonant**

Previous word ends in a consonant:
- one egg
- five apples
- sit up

**Linking /w/**

Previous word ends in close back vowel /u; ʊ, əʊ, aʊ strengths:
- two eggs
- how are you
- too easy
- go out

**Linking /j/**

Previous word ends in close front vowel /ɪ; ɪ, ɐ, əɪ strengths:
- three eggs
- we are
- they always
- high above
linking /r/

previous word ends in central or open vowel /ɑ, æ, ð, ə/

• four eggs
• her answer
• far away
• where is it

intrusive /r/

• linking /r/ usually occurs with an 'r'
• occasionally occurs with no 'r'
• the linking /r/ is then intrusive
• some teachers frown on this

• data analysis
• Asia and Africa
• comma insertion

deletion

• initial /h/ can be deleted from unstressed syllables after a consonant
• final /t, d/ can also be deleted sometimes

deletion of /d/

syllable-final /d/ can be deleted if it is surrounded by two consonants

• hindsight
• handgun
• Gold Coast
• Cold Storage

deletion of /t/

syllable-final /t/ can be deleted if it is surrounded by two consonants and the first is voiceless

• restless
• costly
• best man
• craft shop
• next month

voiceless previous sound

/t/ is not deleted in:

• felt good (≠ fell good)
• pint glass (≠ pine glass)
sometimes deletion is lexicalised

- Christmas
- handkerchief
- ice cream (formerly iced cream)
- mince meat (should be minced meat)

/t, d/ + /j/

- /t/ and /d/ assimilate with a following /j/
- /t/ + /j/ → /tʃ/
- /d/ + /j/ → /dʒ/
- bet you
- did you
- education

sometimes this is lexicalised

- nature
- actually
- orchard was originally ort yard

assimilation

alveolar /t, d, n/ become similar to next sound

ten boys
ten girls
that boy
that girl

they become:
- bilabial /p, b, m/ before bilabials
- velar /k, ɡ, ɹ/ before velars

two processes

deletion can be followed by assimilation

- handbag
- handgun

Reading

- SoE 132 – 129