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ENGLISH PHONETICS

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Lesson 33
Reduction

Listen to the sentences.

1



2



Reduction happens when sounds are **dropped** or **changed** in words when spoken. Although they are not real words in English, they are used extensively by native English speakers in music, movies, etc.



I **want to** sleep.



I **wanna** sleep.

Reduction of 'to'

consonant + to
to becomes 'tə'

Examples:

is tənight

her tə go

out təmorrow

vowel + to
to becomes 'də'

Examples:

see də it

you də shout

go dəmorrow

to becomes 'ə'

Examples:

has to → hasta

got to → gotta

want to → wanna

Reduction of 'of'

of becomes 'uh'

Example:

some of → some uh

He likes some uh
the food.

of + vowel
of becomes 'uhv'

Example:

of all → uhv all

Most uhv all, you
can't drink.

/t/ + of
of becomes 'tta'

Example:

out of → outta

James is outta
money.

Reduction of 'you'

/t/ + you

you becomes 'cha'

Examples:

got^t you → got^tcha

bet^t you → bet^tcha

don't^t you → don't^tcha

/d/ + you

you becomes 'ja'

Examples:

did^d you → did^dja

could^d you → could^dja

would^d you → would^dja

Reductions of 'and, or, for'

and becomes 'n'

Examples:

pink n purple

butter n jelly

movies n books

or becomes 'r'

Examples:

pen r pencil

soup r salad

tea r coffee

for becomes 'fər'

Examples:

fər them

fər lunch

fər example

Other Common Reductions

give me → gimme

going to → gonna

have to → hafta

don't know → dunno

him, her → im, er

because → kuz

could have → coulda

Read the phrases using reduction.

1 got to go

2 kind of cute

3 for my mom

4 her necklace

5 big or small

6 most of all

7 going to sleep

8 got you one

Contractions are shortened forms of words.

This is also an example of **reduction**.

I am

I'm

I will

I'll

He is

He's

cannot

can't

You are

You're

do not

don't

We are

We're

will not

won't

Write the correct contraction form.

1 Let us

2 cannot

3 Who is

4 We will

5 I am

6 You are

7 I would

8 That is

Underline the words that can be reduced.

- 1 I will see you next week.
- 2 What is for dinner tonight?
- 3 They want to know the story.
- 4 Why did you reject the call?
- 5 I am out of food and drinks.

WELL DONE!

**Pronunciation Rule:
Reduction**