

What is Connected Speech?

Worksheet

Connected speech is the process of how sounds merge, drop, and blend when words are spoken together fluently. Key phenomena include elision (sound deletion), assimilation (sound change), and linking (adding transitional sounds), all essential for natural English pronunciation.

Questions

1. What is it called when 'th' in 'going to' disappears → 'gonna'?

- A) Assimilation
- B) Elision
- C) Linking
- D) Reduction

2. In 'did you,' what changes occur?

- A) Nothing, it stays 'did-you'
- B) The 't' of 'did' changes to match 'y' of 'you' → assimilation
- C) A new sound is added between them
- D) The 'ou' sound disappears

3. Which phenomenon is shown in 'law(w)and order'?

- A) Elision
- B) Assimilation
- C) Linking — inserting 'w' sound
- D) Reduction

4. Why do native speakers say 'gonna' instead of 'going to'?

- A) It's incorrect English
- B) It's casual slang only
- C) It's connected speech — elision and reduction for fluency
- D) It's a different word

5. Explain elision in 'I'm gonna go to the store' vs. formal English.

6. What happens in 'did you' when spoken naturally?

7. Linking in 'It is easy': how do sounds connect?

8. Define: What is connected speech?

9. Define: What is elision?

10. Define: What is assimilation?

Answer Key

1. B) Elision — Elision is the deletion of a sound—here, 'th' is dropped entirely.
2. B) The 't' of 'did' changes to match 'y' of 'you' → assimilation — Assimilation: the 't' sound changes to create 'dij-you' naturally.
3. C) Linking — inserting 'w' sound — The 'w' sound links the two words together smoothly.
4. C) It's connected speech — elision and reduction for fluency — Connected speech (elision + reduction) makes speech more efficient and natural.
5. Formal: 'I am going to go to the store' (clear, slow) Natural speech: 'I'm gonna go to the store' (gonna = going to) Even more reduced: 'Imma go to the store' (imma = I'm gonna) Elision drops or reduces sounds for fluency.
6. Formal pronunciation: 'did' (d) + 'you' (y) = two sounds Natural speech: 't' in 'did' assimilates to match 'y' of 'you' Result: 'dij-oo' or 'dijoo' (assimilation: t→tsh combination) Natives never say 'did-you' slowly.
7. Isolated words: 'It-is-easy' (pause between each) Natural speech: the final 't' of 'it' links directly to the initial 'i' Result: 'It-is-easy' flows as one unit, no silent pause Linking smooths word boundaries.
8. Phonetic changes that occur when words are spoken together fluently, including elision, assimilation, and linking.
9. The complete deletion of a sound, often a consonant or final vowel. Example: 'th' in 'going to' → 'gonna'.
10. A sound changes to match nearby sounds. Example: 'do you' → 'doo-yoo' → 'dooja'.

Bounlu

All cards, step-by-step solutions and an AI tutor are in the Notek app.
Promy turns exam dates into automatic reminders.