

The Phonetics of English Pronunciation

Session 09

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¹using material by William Barry

Homework review

Exercise 1

a. *negotiation* *negotiator*

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Homework review (cont'd)

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Wherever mountains reach the sky above,

on icy, starry nights in Summertime,

the frigid air appears to flow away.

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 - Boundary conditions: Elision and Assimilation
Read: Section VI.4, pp. 223-227
 - Stress patterns in compounds
Read: Section VI.2, pp. 188-212

Transcription Exercise

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- **This doesn't mean they are any less important!**
Please don't forget them.

Transcription

They expected him to arrive at the reception after all
ðeɪ^j ɪk'spektɪd^jɪm tʊ^w ə'raɪv^əɪt̪ ðə rə'sepʃən^əɑ:ftə^r 'ɔ:l̩
the other aunts and uncles had offered their
ðɪ^j ʌðə^r 'ɑ:nts^ə ʌŋkəlz^ə 'd^əɒfəd ðeə
congratulations to the excited couple. The object of
kəŋgrætʃə'leɪʃənz tə ðɪ^j ɪk'saɪtɪd 'kʌpəl | ðɪ^j 'ɒbdʒɪkt^əv
the exercise was to give them a final treat
ðɪ^j ɛksɛsaɪz wəz tə 'gɪv ðəm^ə 'faɪnəl 'tri:t

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/t/ → [t̚] before a dental fricative:
- In fact *alveolar* word-final plosives /t d/ and the nasal /n/ *very often change* to become more similar to the initial consonant of the following word (not only before /ð θ/:

compare German:

just in case

[dʒʌst_ɪn_kɛɪs]

let me go

['lɛp_mɪ 'gəʊ]

on guard

[ɒŋ_ɡɑ:d]

red button

['rɛb_bʌtn]

in großen Firmen

[ɪn_ɡrɔ:sən fɪəməŋ]

es steht mir gut

[ɛʃtɛ:p_mie gut]

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- Like in German, weak $/ən/$ endings lose the schwa and assimilate to the preceding consonant:

happen *taken* *heaven*
[ˈhæpən] [ˈteɪkən] [ˈheɪvən]

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- *Too casual* speech shouldn't be practised (it will come naturally if you speak English a lot)
- But *consonant cluster simplification* in certain cases is normal, *not* over-casual, and avoids sounding too precise:

fric. + /t/ ≠ *cons.* → *fric.* ≠ *cons.*

she left Sunday *the last post*

precise [ʃi 'left 'sʌndi] [ðə 'lɑ:st 'pəʊst]

normal [ʃi 'lef 'sʌndi] [ðə 'lɑ:s 'pəʊst]

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In *capture* *rupture* *lecture* *structure* /t/ remains!
[ˈkæp.tʃə] [ˈrʌp.tʃə] [ˈlekt.tʃə] [ˈstrʌk.tʃə]

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- But, of course, ⟨tion⟩ doesn't always lose the [t] (there are always exceptions!)
- The words where a [tʃ] is pronounced are derived from a few verbs ending in /st/:

ingest, digest [... 'dʒest] → [... 'dʒes.tʃən]

And, of course: *question* ['kwes.tʃən]

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Secondly there are related words in German and English which can differ in their word-stress placement.

Many of these are regular suffix differences and are easily learned:

	English	German
⟨tion⟩	unstressed	stressed
⟨ual⟩/⟨uell⟩	unstressed	stressed

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- And semantically equivalent compounds sometimes have the same stress pattern as German, sometimes *not*:
'Haupt,straße vs. *'High ,Street* (strong-weak)
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- We also use the terms *primary stress* and *secondary stress* for “strong” and “weak”.