Phonetics

Lecture 5

Aspects of connected speech Weak forms

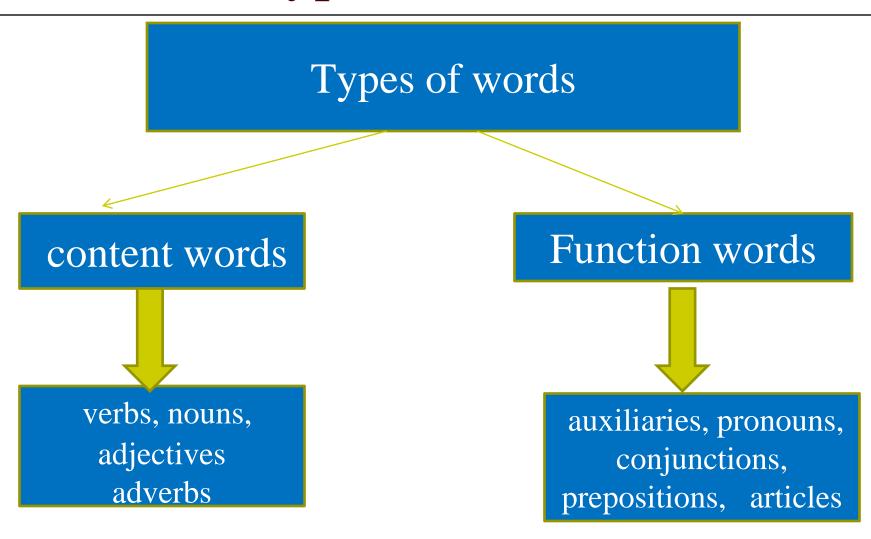


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Objectives: Introducing function words and the weak forms
Transcription practice

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Types of words



Follow up

- * Content words are also called lexical words
- * Function words are also called grammatical words or structural words.
- What is the difference between them?
- What about their pronunciation when they are alone?
- What about their pronunciation when they are in connected speech?

Weak forms

Content words have one pronunciation form called **the strong form**.

Function words can have **two or more pronunciations** called the **weak forms**.

The weak form shows reduction of the vowels towards / 1/, / \u00f3/ and most of the time towards / \u00e4/

Strong vowel	Weak vowel e	examples
/ i:/	/I/	be
/u:/	/ʊ/ or /ə/	do (aux)
/ a:/	/ə/	Are
/ɔ:/	/ə/	for
3:/	/ə/	her
/æ/	/ə/	and
/\ta/	/ə/	of
/^/	/ə/	but
/e/	/ə/	them
/υ/	/ə/	could

Example



Look at these examples. What do you notice?

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/ 'ti: fə 'tu:/
' ti: f ɔ: ' tu/
/ wɒt ə jʊ 'lʊkɪŋ f ɔ:/
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Follow up

When function words are <u>alone</u>, at <u>the end of the</u> <u>sentence</u> or when the <u>speaker wants to put</u> <u>emphasis on them</u>, they are used in the strong form.

Refer to Peter Roach 4th edition for extra information

examples

PREPOSITIONS	WEAK FORM	STRONG FORM
from	/fram/ OR /frm/	/frpm/
to	/tə/ OR /to/	/tu:/
at	/at/	/æt/
in	/ɪn/	/ɪn/
on	/pn/	/pn/
of	/əv/ OR /əf/	/pv/ OR /pf/

Can you underline the function words in these sentences? Then transcribe them using the weak forms

I gave her a box of chocolate for her brithday.

Are you coming to the theatre with us tomorrow?

What does he do at the weekends?

Refer to the List of common function words that have weak forms you have been provided with.

Can you identify the words in weak forms?

/edʒʊˈkeɪʃn ɪz ðə məʊst ɪmˈpɔːtnt ˈfæktə fə
ˈhjuːmən ˌsɪvɪlaɪˈzeɪʃn | ɪt prəˈvaɪdz ðə ˈneɪʃn
wið mæn ˈpaʊəz | prəˈməʊts ˈnæʃnəl ˈjuːnɪti
ənd ˌʌpˈlɪfts ˈpʌblɪk əˈweənəs | ɪf ˈpiːpl ər
ˈedʒʊkeɪtɪd | ˈðeɪ kən ˌʌndəˈstænd ðeə ˈdjuːtɪz
ənd raɪts |ɪn ˈɔːdə tu ˌʌpˈlɪft ˈhjuːmən səˈsaɪəti
| iːtʃ ʃəd bi ˈkeɪpəbl tu ˌʌndəˈstænd ˈʌðəz |