

English Linking Sounds

Vowels	Consonants
a, e, i, o, u	b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, z
y = why / happy / silly	y = yes / yellow / young

Linking

consonant + consonant	vowel + vowel	consonant + vowel
will like this scene	I am (yam) you are (war)	live in (vin) an apartment (na)

Practice: In the text below, find and mark the three types of linking sounds shown above.

Last summer, some friends and I visited a few cities in Italy. It was a great experience and I hope we get a chance to go again soon.

We started off in Rome and then went to Milan and Venice. Because it was a short trip, we were only able to stay in each place for a couple of days.

My personal favorite was Rome but all of my friends preferred Venice. To them, the waterways and the style of the buildings sold them on it. I loved it too but for me, Rome was the absolute best.

This Friday, I'm planning on going out with some friends from work. We haven't decided where we are going to go exactly. I just hope it's someplace new. We usually go to a little restaurant near our office but I am really tired of it. It's not a bad place but we've been there too many times.

I make breakfast almost every morning. Usually, I just make a big vegetable and fruit smoothie. But last week I saw a YouTube video of a chef making a really great recipe. It was an Indian dish made with scrambled eggs and spinach.

The first thing you do is lightly fry some mustard seeds and spices in oil. Then you add some thinly sliced onions and butter. When it's ready, you add the spinach and finally the eggs and a little more butter.

The whole thing is served in a flat bread with a yogurt and mint dressing. It was amazing.

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Pronunciation can seem daunting to a lot of learners and teachers alike. After all, there are so many overlapping sounds going on. Sentences are rising and falling, there are pauses, glottal stops, "t"s that sound more like "d"s and all of it happening at once.

So keep it simple.

Don't worry about all the sounds that are going on all at once and don't bog students down with technical terms they aren't likely to know in their native languages. I promise, most students don't really find them anywhere near as interesting as you do.

The main focus of this lesson is to have students identify and use a simple pattern, the connected sound that occurs when a word ending in a consonant is followed by a word starting with a vowel.

Can I?

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Basic lesson plan

- Have students warm up by speaking about a light topic. Mark down example sentences, phrases or word pairings they use and take note of where they are succeeding and where then need help.
- Introduce vowels and consonants
- Show the three pairing examples: consonant + same consonant / vowel + vowel / consonant + vowel (focus on the third one).
- Practice together or in pairs doing each of the three sample readings. Have students ID the language as much as possible. It's up to you if you want to give them the answer sheet or not. For some classes you might want to just start with the answer sheet and go from there.