

PRACTICING LINKING SOUNDS THROUGH LISTENING

Academic Listening – Lecture Orientation

Linking words are the glue that brings your phrases together and helps guide your listeners and readers through your discourse. In this ASK EXERCISE you work through various listening activities to help you identify linking words. Work in a group or on your own.

1. Watch 1 minute of any TV series or clip of a movie where two people are having a conversation **IN MUTE**.

Like this one for example, The Male Nanny/
Friends <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9hmWCH3JXqU>

2. Predict the following
Who do you think they are? _____
Where are they? _____
Are they in a good or bad mood? _____
What are they talking about? _____
3. Watch the video one more time. This time **WITH SOUND**. And confirm your predictions.
Who do you think they are? _____
Where are they? _____
Are they in a good or bad mood? _____
What are they talking about? _____
4. Listen to 5 seconds of the video. (One sentence) Write down the **NUMBER** of words you hear.

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5. Listen to the video one more time. List all the **KEY WORDS** that you hear. (The most **IMPORTANT** words, the words that are said **LOUDEST** or with a higher **INTONATION**).



6. Number the KEY WORDS you just wrote down in the order they were said in the video.

7. Listen to the video one more time. Write the words as if you were building a sentence in blank spaces, leaving a blank space where you think you are missing a word.

The words you missed are very likely, NOT KEY WORDS. They are “extra words” which are usually linked to other words.

Here is an example (The words in bold are the CONTENT WORDS).

*Well, / let me **fill you in here** little **bro** / and **don't** repeat **any** of **this** / **because** I can **technically** get **despaired** / for **sharing** this **with** you.*

Words that are said

How it sounds (reading as Spanish speaker)

<i>Well let me</i>	<i>/Welemi/</i>
<i>You in here</i>	<i>/iuinheer/</i>
<i>Because I can</i>	<i>/Cozaican/</i>
<i>With you</i>	<i>/withia/</i>

Here are some rules when linking CONSONANT to CONSONANT, VOWEL to VOWEL, CONSONANT to VOWAL, and linking VOWELS WITHIN A WORD taken from the book **MASTERING THE AMERICAN ACCENT, Lisa Mojsin Barron's Educational Series, 2009, p102-105.**

- “When a word ends in a consonant and the next word begins with a vowel, connect the final consonant to the next vowel, making it sound as if the second Word starts with a consonant”.



Hold on – sounds **/wholedon/**

- “When the final consonant of one Word is the same as the first consonant of the following Word, pronounce the consonant only once. Do not pause between the sounds, but just lengthen the sound a bit or say it with more energy.”

Speaks Spanish – sounds **/speak spanish/**

- When a word ends with a vowel and the next word begins with a vowel, do not pause between the words. For a smoother transition between the sounds and to ensure a complete pronunciation of both of the vowels we insert a short /w/ sound after a front vowel (such as /ei/, /i/ and /ai/, and a short /y/ sound after a back vowel such as /v/ or /ov/.

Go out – sounds **/gowout/**

- When an individual Word contains two vowel sounds together, we also add a Little y or w sound.

Diet – sounds **/diyet/**

[Link to PDF](#)

Listen to the following video.

I'm tired/I'm in heaven, Green Mile <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSo5dDoXYAM>

As you listen, find the linked words in the transcript below:

P: I have to ask you something very important now.

J: I know what you gonna say. You don't have to say it.

P: No, I do. I do. I have to say it. Tell me what you want me to do. You want me to take you out of here? Just let you run away? See how far you could get?

J: Why would you do such a foolish thing?

P: On the day of my judgment...when I stand before God.....and he asks me why did I.... did I kill one of His true...miracles...what am I going to say? That it was my job? It's my job?

J: You tell God the Father it was a kindness you done. I know you're hurting and worrying. I can feel it on you. But you ought to quit on it now. I want it to be over and done with I do. I'm tired, boss. Tired of being on the road, lonely as a sparrow in the rain. I'm tired of never having me a buddy to be with....to tell me where we's going to, coming from, or why. Mostly, I'm tired of people being ugly to each other. I'm tired of all the pain I feel and hear



in the world...every day. There's too much of it. It's like pieces of glass in my head...all the time.

Can you understand?

P: Yes, John, I think I can. Well, there must be something we can do for you, John. There must be something that you want.

J: I ain't never seen me a flicker show.

Heaven i'm in heaven. And my heart beats so that i can hardly speak. And I seem to find the happiness i seek when we're out together dancing cheek to cheek.

J: Why, they's angels. Angels, just like up in heaven.