



Vowel to Vowel Linking

Spoken English is not choppy.

Native...speakers...don't...talk...like...this...when...they...speak. Instead, spoken English sounds like one, long connected word. This is called linking - or the way sounds are connected within words and across word boundaries.

Linking is extremely common in spoken English - it occurs as often as it can - and it is important to learn how to link words together if you want to sound natural to a native speaker.

In this resource, I'll discuss the linking that occurs when one word or syllable ends in a vowel, and the next word or syllable begins with a vowel.

Vowel to Vowel Linking with Front Vowels using /j/

When one word or syllable ends in a front vowel sound, like EE /i/ in *see*, AI /aɪ/ in *buy*, or AY /eɪ/ in *hey*, and the next word begins with a vowel sound, you use the Y /j/, like in *yes*, sound to link them together.

When you say the word *see*, notice what your lips and tongue are doing when you say the final vowel sound EE. Your lips should be spread apart, and your tongue should be high and wide in the mouth. This is a very natural lip/tongue position for the Y /j/ sound to come next. Let's practice linking using the Y /j/ sound in a few phrases.

Practice Words: Linking with /j/

Phrase	Linking	Pronunciation
I am	I ^j am	lyam /aɪjæm/
realize	re ^j alize	reyalize /ɹiʒəlaɪz/
tie it	tie ^j it	tieyit /taɪjɪt/



Vowel to Vowel Linking with Back Vowels using /w/

When a word or syllable ends in a back vowel, like OO /u/ in *who*, OW /aʊ/ in *how*, and OH /oʊ/ in *show*, and the next word begins with a vowel, then you use a W /w/ sound, like in *we*, to link the words together.

Pay attention to what your lips are doing when you say the word *who*. As you say the OO vowel, your lips are rounded - which is a perfect position for the W /w/ sound to come next. Let's practice linking using the W /w/ sound in a few phrases.

Practice Words: Linking with /w/

Phrase	Linking	Pronunciation
do it	do ^w it	dowit /du ^w it/
how are	how ^w are	howare /haʊ ^w aɪ/
owe a lot	owe ^w a lot	owealot /oʊ ^w əlɒt/

Thanks for reading! Make sure you watch the video that goes along with this resource ([Vowel to Vowel Linking in American English](#)) and contact me if you have any questions! Happy studying!

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