

Understanding fast speech

The following sentences are written how they would be pronounced. Read them out loud and try to understand what they say:

1. shwi start now?
2. Jyuwanna gedda coffee?
3. I hafta leave.
4. Ah ya gonna seeyim befor ree goes?
5. Shiz bin promoted.
6. She wz late.
7. Didya go win the factri?

Any word starting with a vowel is linked to the previous word, either by the consonant at the end of the last word, or by a secret linking sound /j/, /w/ and /r/. Listen to these sentences and mark where you hear linking sounds.

1. He'll be in after three.
2. I saw a good opportunity.
3. She's the owner and manager of the firm.
4. I'll have to buy some new accounting software.
5. She visited China and India.
6. Tell me your opinion of the report.
7. Should we go out now?
8. Can you see all the figures clearly?

Consonants often change or disappear when we speak fast. Listen to these sentences and mark what has disappeared:

1. Did you have a look at this?
2. So, could you tell me his name again?
3. We went there last week.
4. Do you want to get a sandwich?
5. What will you do next, Tim?
6. Give me a moment, it's in my handbag.