

Stress

- Some vowels can be perceived as more prominent than others.
- Stress is a cover term for the combined effects of pitch, loudness, and length—the result of which is perceived prominence.
- In general, English stressed vowels are *higher* in pitch, *longer*, and *louder* than unstressed ones.
- There are various ways to mark stress in phonetic transcription. We will use an acute accent [´].

Stress

- Ex: “banana”


[bə.næ.nə]


[tɛləgræfɪk]


[tə.lɛ.grə.fi]

[bə.n^á.nə]

[tɛ.lə.gɹ^á.fɪk]

[tə.l^É.gɹə.fi]

Vowel Reduction

- Vowels may move to a more central position when the vowels are unstressed.
- This process is known as **vowel reduction**.
- Typically, the outcome of vowel reduction is a schwa [ə]
- This can be observed in pairs of related words that show different stress placement, such as Canada [kænədə] versus Canadian [kənéjdɪən].

Processes

Coursebook 2.9.2

Processes

- Vowel Reduction
- Assimilation
- Dissimilation
- Deletion
- Epenthesis
- Metathesis
- Flapping

Assimilation

- When one sound becomes more similar to another in its environment is called **assimilation**.
- Ex: In English, /n/ often takes on the *place of articulation* of a following consonant.
 - “unpleasant” [əmplɛznt]
 - “engrossed” [ɛŋɡrɔʊst]

This type of assimilation is called **place assimilation**.

Voicing assimilation

- Assimilation in which one segment becomes more like a nearby segment in terms of voicing is called **voicing assimilation**.
- Example: English past tense marker [d] assimilates to [t] in front of voiceless sounds
 - “Watched”: [watʃd] → [watʃt]
 - “Liked”: [laɪkd] → [laɪkt]

Flapping

- Flapping is a process in which a dental or alveolar stop articulation changes to a flap [ɾ] articulation.
- In English, this process applies to [t] and [d] when they occur between vowels, the first of which is generally stressed.
- Flaps are heard in the casual speech pronunciation of words such as *butter*, *writer*, *city*, *attic*, *etc.* and even in phrases such as *I bought it* [ajbaɪɾɪt].
- E.g. “Dead Ed had edited it”

Dissimilation

- The opposite of assimilation -- two sounds becoming less alike in articulatory terms.
- One commonly heard example of dissimilation in English occurs in words ending with three consecutive fricatives, such as “fifths”.
 - [fɪfθs] → [fɪfts]

Deletion

- Deletion is the process that removes a segment from certain phonetic contexts.
- Deletion occurs in everyday rapid speech in many languages. In English, a schwa [ə] is often deleted when the next vowel in the word is stressed.
- [pəreɪd] → [preɪd] “parade”
- [səpəʊz] → [spəʊz] “suppose”

Epenthesis

- A process that inserts a syllabic or a non-syllabic segment within an existing string of segments.
- For example, in careful speech, the words “warmth” and “something” are pronounced [wɑɹmθ] and [sɔ̃mθɪŋ]
- In casual speech speakers insert a [p] between the [m] and the [θ] and pronounce the words [wɑɹmpθ] and [sɔ̃mpθɪŋ].
 - Note: English plurals also use epenthesis adding [ɪ] as in “case” – “cases”; [kejs] – [kejsɪz]

Metathesis

- A process that reorders a sequence of segments.
- This often results in a sequence of phones that is easier to articulate.
- Children often use metathesis
 - pesghetti [pəskəri]. In this form, the initial sequence [spə], which is often difficult for children to pronounce, is metathesized to [pəs].
- “Prescribe” and “prescription” → “perscribe” and “perscription”
- “Ask” → “Aks”



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