Linking & Pausing Worksheet
connecting words & sounds together to sound natural & fluent in English

While speaking English, you want your words to flow from one word to the next so it sounds natural & fluid.

Linking words together DOES NOT mean you speak faster.

It’s not how a word is spelled, it’s how it sounds.

Rules of Linking
1. Consonant to Vowel
2. Vowel to Vowel
3. Consonant to Consonant (A & B)

1. Consonant to Vowel/Vowel to Consonant
When one word ends in a consonant sound and the next word begins with a vowel sound, you must link the two sounds together as if they were one word.

Ex: My bed is tall. /mI-bed-iz-tol/

Practice Sentences (C to V):
1. Sunshine is good for you. /sunshIn-iz-goohd-fer-yoo/
2. Can I go home early? /kan-I-gO-hOm-erlee/
3. He wants to drive. /hee-wonts-too-drIv/
4. Get out of my way! /ged-owd-uv-mI-wA/
5. Her shoes are expensive. /her-shooz-ar-ekspensiv/
6. Let’s eat out. /lets-eed-owt/
7. Do you want to go bowling? /doo-yoo-won-too-gO-bOleeng/
8. Please pass a tissue. /pleez-pas-uh-tishoo/
9. Red is my favorite color. /red-iz-mI-fAvrit-kuler/
10. He likes playing outside. /hee-lIks-plAyeeng-owtsId/
2. Vowel to Vowel
When a word ends in a vowel sound and the next word begins with a vowel sound, you will connect the two vowel sounds with a glide sound - either /w/ or /y/. If the first vowel is said in the front of your mouth - use the /w/ glide. If the first vowel is said in the back of your mouth - use the /y/ glide.

Ex: I_always go out to eat. /I-y-olwAz-g0-w-owt-oo-w-eet/

Practice Sentences (V to V):
1. My Uncle is too angry. /mI-y-unkul-iz-too-w-Angree/
2. He ate the apple. /hee-y-At-THee-y-apul/
3. The older boy is strong. /THee-y-Older-bO-y-iz-strong/
4. I always see you in the elevator. /I-y-olwAz-see-yoo-w-in-THee-y-eluhvAder/
5. Sue is a very outgoing girl. /soo-w-iz-uh-vAree-y-owtgOweeng-gerul/
6. Go inside before you over heat. /gO-w-insId-beefOr-yoo-w-Over-heet/
7. She went to Africa on vacation. /shee-wentoo-w-afrikuh-on-vAkAshun/
8. We are happy on sunny afternoons. /wee-y-ar-hapee-y-on-sunee-y-afternoonz/
9. I ended the meeting at quarter to one. /I-y-endid-THuh-medeeng-at-kworder-too-w-uhn/
10. Be intelligent when you open the lecture. /bee-y-intelijint-wen-yoo-w-Opin-Thuh-leksher/

3. Consonant to Consonant: (part A)
When one word ends in a consonant sound and the next word begins with the same consonant sound, then the consonant sound is said only once.

Practice Sentences:
1. I want to come. /I-won-too-kum/
2. He’s had enough food. /heez-had-enu-food/
3. I want some more. /I-wont-su-mor/
4. She ate two grapes. /shee-y-A-too-grAps/
5. My parents sold the car. /mI-pArint-sOld-THuh-kar/
6. The water runs down the hill. /THuh-woder-unz-down-THuh-hiul/
7. Wood floors scratch easily. /woohd-flor-skrach-ezulee/
8. Children need a lot of love. /childri-need-uh-lod-wv-luv/
9. The dog gave me the ball. /THuh-do-gAv-mee-THuh-bol/
10. The car rolled over twice. /THuh-kar-Old-Over-twIs/
3. Consonant to Consonant: (part B)
When one word ends in a consonant sound and the next word begins with a consonant sound produced in the same position, then they share the pronunciation.

Usually, the first consonant will NOT get its full pronunciation because it is sliding into the next consonant sound.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lips</th>
<th>Behind Teeth</th>
<th>Throat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/p, f, b, v/</td>
<td>/t, ch, s, sh, d, dg, z, zh, n/</td>
<td>/k, h, g, ng, r/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Practice Sentences:
1. I've been drinking coffee. /lu-bin-dreenkeeng-kofee/
2. Pete didn't share his treat. /peet-didnt-shAr-hiz-treet/
3. Stop by my house tonight. /stop-blI-mI-hows-toonIt/
4. His sister is so nice. /hiz-sister-iz-sO-nIs/
5. My brother really likes dogs. /mI-bruTHer-eelee-lks-dogz/
6. These shoes are five bucks. /Theez-shooz-ar-flu-buks/
7. I feel like going running. /I-feeu-lIk-gOeeng-runeeeng/
8. I was up for a game of basketball. /I-wuz-up-fer-uh-gAm-uv-baskitbol/
9. He was at church showing the program. /hee-wuz-at-cherch-shOweeng-Thuh-prOgram/
10. Let's share a ride to work. /lets-shAr-uh-rId-too-werk/

REMEMBER: Do NOT add extra vowels or sounds after words - always lead straight into the next word!

Ex: I walk uh the dog. (do NOT say ‘uh’)

When connecting words you should only say the sounds in the words.
Pausing

Anytime you pause, you will break the link that would be there based on the linking rules you just learned.

Pause when you come to a comma, a period, or when it feels natural to create a break in the message unit.

Practice Paragraph:
The English language has a long, rich, and interesting history. Because its roots are in Germanic, Romanic, Greek, and even Latin languages, its grammar and spelling rules are hard to learn. Often, people who have to learn English as a second language have a hard time. Yet, many have been able to learn it and now even teach it to friends, family, and even neighbors.

Pausing is also used:
1. To emphasize an idea.
2. To build emotion.
3. While giving directions.
4. While speaking to a group.
5. While speaking to someone unfamiliar with a topic.

Directions: practice paragraph
First, drive past 5 stop signs. When you see a big, blue house on your right, make a right hand turn. Drive on this street for 3 stop signs. Make a left just past the park, stay in the right lane. In 3 to 4 traffic lights, there will be a paint store on your right. Make a right turn, stay in the right lane. The freeway entrance will then be on your right.