Connected speech- 1

Weak forms

When we speak, we want to get our message across **as quickly as possible**. In this way, we **compress** some words which are not important to the meaning of the sentence.

Listen to this sentence:
John climbed up the stairs and went to bed.



To understand the meaning of this sentence, we need to hear the words
John/climbed/stairs/went/bed

The other words are important to make a grammatically correct sentence, but are not important for understanding what is said, so they are compressed:

John climb upthe stairs n went t bed

Because we speak like this, compressing words (called weak forms), it can be difficult to hear what people say. But remember, the important words that you need to understand this sentence are clearly pronounced:

To understand the meaning of this sentence, we need to hear the words
John/climbed/stairs/went/bed



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Connecting, changing and dropping sounds

When we speak quickly (at normal speed), we don't stop between each word, which means two or three words can actually sound like one long word:

1. The man says: **I got on a bus**. He says:
I
Goton
ubus
or even:
I
gotonabus



We connect many words when we speak quickly, because we don't want to waste time pronouncing each word separately.

2. The man says: **I got in a bus and sat down**. He says:
I
Gotonabus
n
sa
down
He doesn't pronounce the **t** sound of **sat** because, when speaking quickly, it is impossible to say the **t** of **sat** and then move your mouth quickly to say the **d** of **down**, so the **t** disappears. This is also common.

Listen to this sentence

3. The man says: **I was hungry, so I made myself a sandwich**. He says:
I
Ws
Hungry
so-w-I
mab
myselfasamwich



He compresses the weak form **was,** connects **so** and **I** and has to put a **w** between to save time, connects **myself** and the short form of **a**, and then changes **sandwich** to **samwich,** again because it saves time.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Practice

Say this	Say it like this
1. She made a cake.	She made-a-cake
2. It's a green park.	Its-a-greem-park
3. He's a bad dog.	Hes-a-ba-dog
4. Her English is great.	Her-renglish-is-great
5. She lives next door.	She lives nex door

LIVEWORKSHEETS