

Further Listening Practice

When speaking quickly in English, people often miss out individual sounds at the end of words – a process known as ELISION. For example, a speaker will say *las' night* instead of last night, *jus' got here* instead just got here, or *trie' to* instead of tried to.

Another feature of natural spoken English is the glottal stop. It occurs when the speaker constricts his or her throat and blocks the air stream completely. This results in the speaker not pronouncing fully the –t sound at the end of words such as *got* or *lot*, or the –t sound in words such as *bottle* or *kettle*.

This gap-fill exercise focuses on words, which you probably know already, but whose pronunciation has changed because of elision or Caroline and Martin's use of the glottal stop.

Look at the words in the box to help you complete the phrases.

Couldn't sleep	get(2)	moved back	get up	like that	at(2)
Didn't get out	won't be	what	break then	had to	got about
Put it	went down	supposed to	worked through	tend to	about(3)
Lot	get served there	don't need	spend	worked later	night before

1. You've recently _____ to London, I think.
2. Sometimes I _____ in till half-six in the evening.
3. It depends on, on _____ I'm _____ be doing
4. I _____ er, oh, well, I _____ get up _____ 9 ...
5. There's a _____ of days at the moment where I'm starting work at 9 or 10 in the morning.
6. Sometimes, If I've _____ the _____, um, and I _____ to be in till much later, then I'll leave it until _____ midday or one o'clock.
7. The cut-off is _____ 2.30, so I _____ an hours' _____
8. So we've _____ an hour to _____ with each other
9. We _____ quickly
10. And then I _____ till half-past two
11. And then I _____ into the studio theatre _____ the Opera House
12. And then we _____ take the _____ and _____ in a um, a lorry
13. And we _____ of there ... didn't _____ home until 7 o'clock in the morning
14. So I _____ because you're buzzing _____ the end of a night _____