

REDUCTION OF MODALS PERFECT

by Julian Conde

I. Choose T (true) or F (false).

1. The letter h in he, her, have, and had is always clearly pronounced in fast speech.
2. In modal perfects, the word have is often reduced to /əv/ or /ə/.
3. The phrase might have happened can sound like “mighta happened.”
4. In should have done, native speakers usually stress the word have.
5. In negative contractions, have can join with couldn’t to form “couldn’t’ve.”
6. Inside a sentence, he, him, his, her often drop the h sound and connect to the previous word.
7. The sentence If he comes, give him the message can sound like “iffy comes, givim the message.”
8. The h sound is always dropped in short answers like Yes, I have.
9. We keep the h sound when the word is emphasized or there’s a pause before it.
10. Reductions make speech faster and more natural for native speakers.

II. Listen and write the full form:

Example: You **should have** called **her** before leaving the house.

1. I _____ seen _____ at the mall yesterday.
2. They _____ finished it without _____ help.
3. Tell _____ we'll meet _____ after the movie.
4. He said _____ _____ come, but _____ was too tired.

