

## Weak and strong forms

In spoken English, small words (such as *a, an, the, do, does, to, from, at, of*) are not usually stressed. When these words are unstressed, they're called *weak forms*.

The unstressed vowel in these weak forms is pronounced /ə/ (*to* = /tə/, *the* = /ðə/, etc.).

However, speakers sometimes stress these small words to make them the main part of their message. When these words are stressed, they're called *strong forms*.

### 6 6.2 Listen and complete the sentences with weak forms.

- 1 Inventions \_\_\_\_\_ technology from India, China, North Africa, \_\_\_\_\_ Middle East were brought \_\_\_\_\_ Europe.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ first eyeglasses were held in front \_\_\_\_\_ eyes or balanced on \_\_\_\_\_ nose.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ crankshaft is \_\_\_\_\_ long arm that allows machines \_\_\_\_\_ move \_\_\_\_\_ straight line.
- 4 As we move along, you'll find one \_\_\_\_\_ most important inventions \_\_\_\_\_ medieval times.