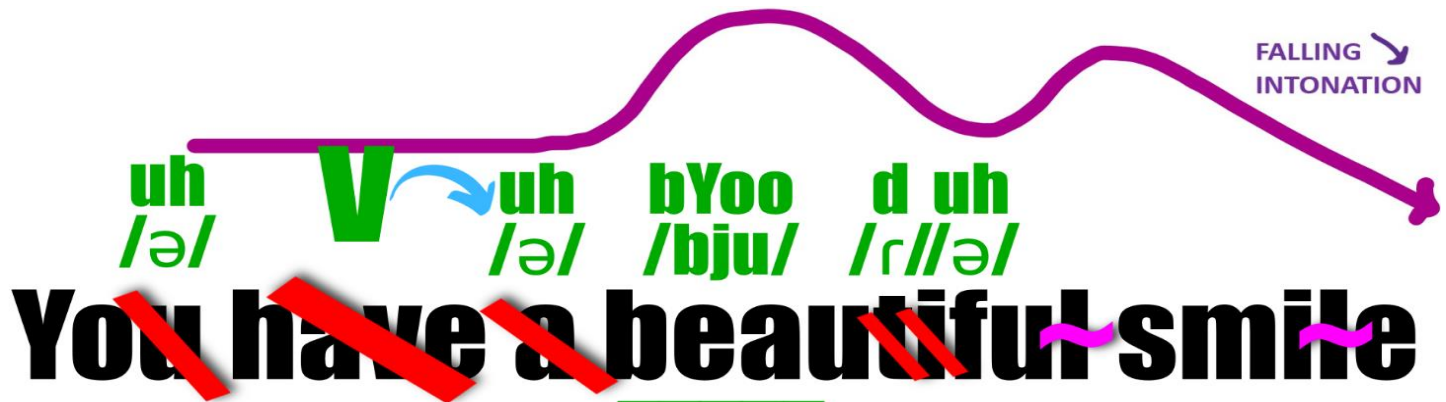


SPEECH MAPPING: COMPLIMENTS

(YouTube Video Accompaniment)

Compliment: "You have a beautiful smile!"

- **IPA:** /ju hæv ə 'bjutəfəl smaɪl/
- **Common Response:** "thank you!"
- **IPA Response:** /θæŋk ju/



The pronunciation of "you" reduces to "Yuh" with a schwa /ə/ sound when it's not stressed in a sentence. It's a quick and neutral "uh" sound rather than "YOO".

"Have" is another word that when not stressed in an utterance gets reduced. In this case, the word reduces to essentially just a /v/ sound. As we link "yuh" with 'v' from "have" the result sounds more like "yuv"

The word "A" is reduced to "uh" when it's unstressed, rather than the full "AA" or "EY" pronunciation when it's the stressed word in a sentence.

As the /v/ in "have" links to "a" it sounds like "vuh" - the final result from "you have AA" is "yuvuh"

The "b e a u" in beautiful is pronounced "byoo", with a small 'Y' sound inserted

The "ti" in beautiful has two processes. First, the /t/ is pronounced as a flap /t/ because it is unstressed and surrounded by vowels, so it sounds more like "d" than a /t/

Secondly, the "i" in "ti" is pronounced as a schwa "Uh" sound. This is an unstressed vowel, so it can be neutralized and rushed through. So instead of "TEEE" in "beautiful" the pronunciation is "DUH"

Both Ls in "beautiful and smile" are pronounced as the dark L sound. So instead of using the tip of the tongue to touch the alveolar ridge, a greater portion of the body of the tongue, farther back towards the middle of the tongue is raised to the palate or roof of the mouth.

STRESS

Can you hear how the words “beautiful” in “smile” are stressed more than the others? For one speaker, only “smile” stands out as stressed. The stressed word gives the greatest meaning to the phrase, and expresses the greatest amount of important information.

INTONATION

Notice how the intonation or pitch of music of speech falls after the final stressed word. This is a falling intonation, which indicates a statement with confidence.

Compliment: "You look great!"

This is one of the most common compliments given in American English. This compliment can be used for someone you have met before but haven't see in some time, or to someone you have met before but are in the process of getting to know better (like on a date for instance)

- **IPA:** /ju lʊk greɪt/
- **Common Response:** "Thank you!"
- **IPA Response:** /θæŋk ju/



“You” starts with the “y” sound, in IPA it’s this symbol /j/. For many non-native English speakers, they substitute this sound “j” for “y” so it sounds more like “joo look great”

Begin the pronunciation with an /i/ “EEE” -where the sides of your tongue are anchored on the upper side teeth, the lips are spread into more of a smile, and the middle of your tongue is pressed high near the palate or top of the mouth.

Compare “joo” vs “Yooo”

The “oo” vowels in the word “look” are often mistaken for the “OO” /u/ pronunciation. So, the word “look” will mistakenly sound more like “Luke”

The vowel in “look” is the upsilon sound, and this is the IPA symbol /ʊ/

If this is difficult for you, just say the “UH” sound as in UH-OH or UP- but purse your lips slightly forward and you’ll have the sound.

The /k/ in “look” is not released as you might expect- like ‘K’ but instead, it is UNRELEASED

Unreleased means that the tongue does not release from its position and allow air to flow out, it’s like it’s held until the next sound. This happens because the /k/ is followed by a consonant /g/ in “great”

This helps the speaker to link the words together to speak fluently, and to speed up the rate of speech

The “r” in “great” is considered an /r/ blend. An r-blend is a more complex “r” than typical because it’s pronounced right next to a consonant. A typical substitution is a trilled /r/, where the tongue tip flutters against the palate or alveolar ridge on the roof of the mouth- So it will sound like “gdate, instead of “great”. To produce a rhotic “r”, curl the tongue tip slightly back so that it does not touch the palate after the /g/ “it will sound more like “GERR”.

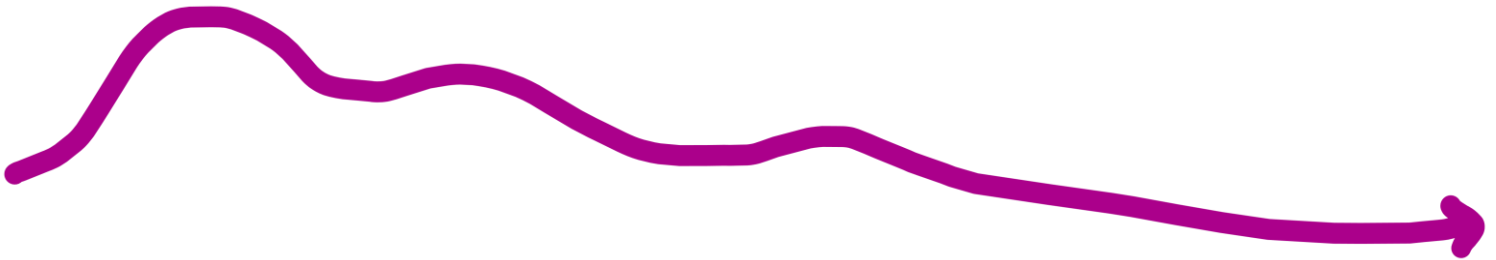
The /t/ in “great” is not produced as a typical released /t/ as you might expect, instead it is produced as a Glottal stop /t/ So instead of “great”, it sounds more like “grea-“

To produce a glottal /t/, the sound is stopped in the glottis or the throat- It’s the actual sound of the pressure and airflow stopping that creates the sound. Think of the sound created wen you say “UH-OH”- the sound between UH and OH involves forcefully stopping the air- that is a glottal /t/

LINKING

As we link the words together to increase fluency, there is a rounding of the lips or a /w/ like pronunciation that occurs. The voice continues to flow from “you” to “Look” with that /w/ shadowing from the /u/ in “you”

The stress can be placed on any of the words, depending on the meaning the speaker wants to convey.
You look GREAT (emphasizing how great the person looks)



YOU look great (emphasizing the PERSON who looks great (not me but YOU))



You LOOK great (less common, emphasizing on LOOKING great, rather than being great or sounding great for example.)



Or equal stress on all words YOU LOOK GREAT

INTONATION

No matter which word receives the primary stress, the intonation or pitch of music of speech falls after that stressed word. There is a falling intonation, which indicates a statement with confidence.

Compliment: "You look...(other)"

This compliment can be adjusted with whichever description you would like to use, such as: stunning, handsome, very nice, really pretty, or good.

This compliment is usually used with someone **you have already met before**, or to someone you have just met and are in the process of getting to know better

For a compliment with the use of "good" the "oo" vowels are often mistaken for the "OO" pronunciation. So the word "good" will mistakenly sound more like "gOOOOOd"

The vowel in "good" is the upsilon sound, and this is the IPA symbol /ʊ/ just like in "look"

For a compliment with the use of "stunning" the /k/ in "look" will be linked to the word stunning. Which will sound more like "kstunning" with no space between. Also, the "ing" in stunning is pronounced with a back of the tongue nasal sound /ŋ/ and this is the IPA symbol to represent the sound. Many ESL speakers either substitute an /n/ or fully release and devoice the /g/ at the end. This can sound either like "stunning" or "stunninK"

To pronounce the "ng" sound, use the back of your tongue to close the airway "NG" and feel how the nose begins to vibrate as the air flows out nasally rather than out the mouth.

For a compliment with the use of "Handsome". The /d/ is deleted entirely. This happens when you see an /n/ followed by a /d/ + another consonant: SO instead of hanDsome, you'll hear HAN some.

The "ome" in "some" is pronounced as "UH" -this is the IPA symbol /ə/ rather than "OH" as is often mispronounced.

For a compliment with "really pretty" the use of The "t"s in Pretty are changed to flap /t/ pronunciations.

So instead of "preTTY" it will sound more like a /d/ sound "PrIH DEE". A lingual flap /t/ happens when a /t/ is surrounded by vowels or /r/ sounds when unstressed. In this case the "IH" sound occurs before the /t/ and "EE" after the /t/- two vowel sounds. The stress is in PRIH, so the /t/ in the unstressed syllable can be pronounced as a quick /d/ sound.

LINKING

All the words in the phrase are linked together- the /k/ in "Look" attaches to the choice of compliment- and is unreleased



STRESS

The primary stress, or the word that receives the greatest emphasis, highest pitch, and louder/longer vowels is typically the descriptor word like "great, stunning, handsome" etc.

INTONATION

Notice how the intonation or pitch of music of speech falls after the stressed word. There is a falling intonation, which indicates a statement with confidence.

Practice for yourself by repeating the phrase, to get really natural at using this very common compliment.

Compliment: "I love your outfit!"

- **IPA:** /aɪ lʌv jə 'aʊtfɪt/
- **Common Response:** "Thanks, I got it at [store name]!"

- **IPA Response:** /θæŋks, aɪ ɡɒt ɪt æt [store name]/



The vowel in "love" is "UH" unlike the expected spelling of "OH" for "LOWV", this is the IPA symbol for "UH"/^/
To produce this vowel, keep your lips in a neutral position, avoiding the temptation to round your lips

Also, the /v/ in love is a voiced consonant. ur focus for /v/ will to be to ensure you have your voice vibration on, instead of a quiet voiceless /f/ sound. Compare "luff" vs "luvvv" feel the vocal fold vibration of your voice on your throat as you add your voice buzz.

As the voiced /v/ links in "love to your" you'll notice that the /v/ slides right to the next word. It sounds more like "VYER"

The word "your" is very often reduced to "yer". Since "YOUR" involves more vowel sliding, it's simpler to reduce to a "yer" or neutral vowel production.

The R in "your" links to "outfit, to result in "routfit"

The Ts in "outfit" are not produced as typical released /t/ sounds. Each of these /t/ sounds turn into Glottal stop /t/s instead, so Instead of "OUT fit" it will sound like "OU-FI-)

To produce this sound, abruptly stop the air from the vowel "OUwww to OU_" and FIlll to FIll_"

The "I" in "outfit" is pronounced as "IH" instead of "EE" as is often replaced with.

So instead of "outfeet" , lower the middle of the tongue to "IH" Compare "FEET" vs "FIT"

STRESS

Can you hear how the words "Love" and "OUT" in "outfit" are stressed more than the others? These are the words that give the greatest meaning to the phrase, and express the greatest amount of important information.

INTONATION

Notice how the intonation or pitch of music of speech falls after the stressed word. This is a falling intonation, which indicates a statement with confidence.

Compliment: "I like your (ITEM)!"

- **IPA:** /aɪ laɪk jə helr/
- **Common Response:** "Thanks, I just got it done!"
- **IPA Response:** /θæŋks, aɪ dʒʌst ɡɒt ɪt dʌn/



I like your hat
 I like your haircut
 I like your hair
 I like your jacket
 I like your shirt
 I really like your shorts
 I like your tattoos

The word “I” is generally not the primary stressed word in a sentence, so it becomes “unstressed”, when that occurs, rather than a full, clear, precise vowel production, the vowel gets shortened, produced quicker and with more neutrality. The result is that a typical diphthong vowel such as “AH EE”, the reduction can sound more like “uh”

The word “like” on the other hand in this phrase receives some stress, so the vowel stays as an /aɪ/ diphthong. This is the symbol for /aɪ/ and it occurs in words like “my, buy, and spy”

As the /k/ in “like” links to “your”, the result is a blended “kyor”- linking occurs to speed the message up and contributes to the fluency of the message.

The /k/ in “like” is also not released in this instance, which is often the case when followed by consonants. The ‘y’ in “your” is considered a consonant. It’s only really considered a vowel in “final ‘y’” words like “every, and very” and when in the middle of the word when it’s the only vowel or it’s the middle of a syllable, like “gym”
 So the /k/ is not released with air but rather it’s held until the ‘Y’ is produced.

The word “Your” because it’s not a stressed word in this phrase, reduces to “yer”- this is an unstressed “reduction” where the vowel becomes neutralized.

For “hat”- the /h/ airflow in this word is fully released “H”.

The vowel “AA” in “hat” is the “asH” sound, and in IPA it is the symbol /æ/. The pronunciation of this vowel is often substituted with /a/ “AH”. To create the “AA”, the jaw is open, back of tongue is down with a widening of the back of the palatal space -most importantly, the lips are in a retracted almost smile position as compared to the /a/ which has a more open relaxed position. “compare “AH vs “AA”

The /t/ in “hat” is pronounced as a glottal stop /t/- The air is stopped in the glottis rather than released by the tongue tip release- think “UH UH UH” instead of “T” T” T”.

For hair: the /h/ is released with airflow, the vowel is pronounced as a diphthong /eɪ/ there is a slide from one vowel to another “EH EE” followed by a rhotic “ER” sound “AIR”

The “j” in Jacket is pronounced with a voiced /d/ and pulled back voiced /ZH/ sound: this is similar to the “SH” sound, but voiced “SH” vs “ZH”. Now add a /d/ before it d+ ZH. Jacket.

The “a” in jacket is pronounced with an “ash” /æ/ vowel- which includes that open jaw/low tongue/wide smile sound.

The “t” in jacket” is pronounced as a glottal stop /t/- The air is stopped in the glottis rather than released by the tongue tip release- think “UH UH UH” instead of “T” T” T”.

The “SH” in shirt involves a pulled back tongue position. Think /s/ but slide it back and round your lips.

The “ER” in “shirt” includes a rhotic /r/- so curl the tongue tip back into a bowl, keeping it pulled back but not touching the alveolar ridge on the roof of the mouth.

Lastly the /t/ is a glottal stop in “shirt”: A glottal /t/ is pronounced when the next sound is a consonant after the /t/ and it can also be used at the ends of phrases and sentences with a stopping in the glottis or throat, rather than a true /t/ released with the tongue tip.

STRESS

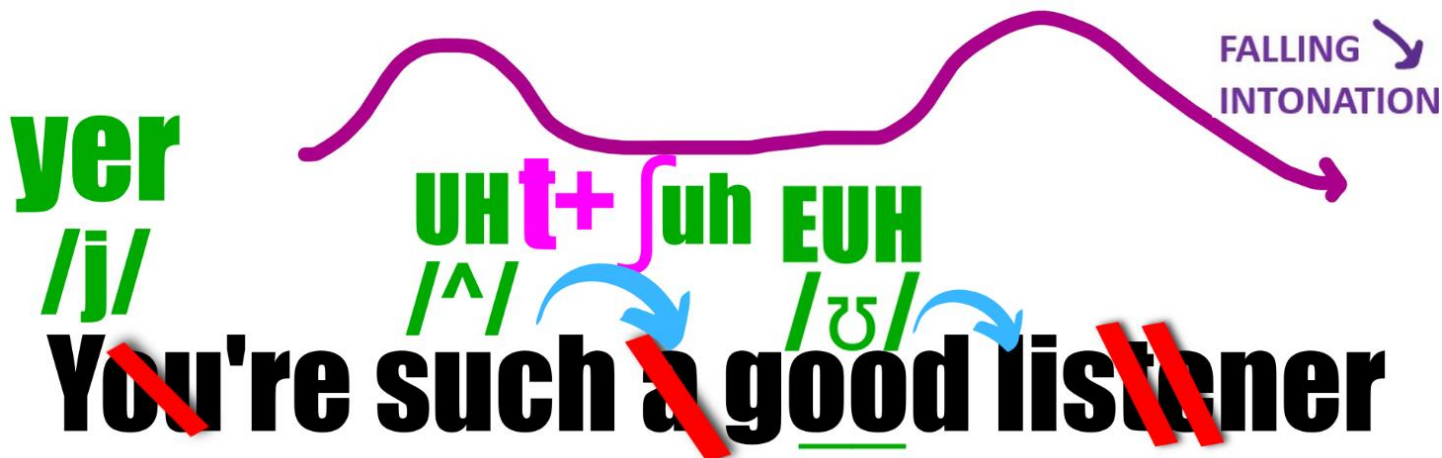
Can you hear how the words “Like” and “the item words” are stressed more than the others? These are the words that give the greatest meaning to the phrase, and express the greatest amount of important information.

INTONATION

Notice how the intonation or pitch of music of speech falls after the final stressed word. This is a falling intonation, which indicates a statement with confidence.

Compliment: "You're such a good listener!"

- **IPA:** /jə sʌtʃ ə gʊd 'lɪsənə/
- **Common Response:** "Thank you! I appreciate that."
- **IPA Response:** /θæŋk ju! aɪ ə 'prɪʃi, eɪt ðæt/



The “y” in “your” is pronounced as “YYYY” with the middle of the tongue high near the palate -If you struggle with substituting “j” , pull the tongue tip away from any contact with the front teeth or palate

The “our” in “your” is reduced in this phrase as this particular word is not stressed. When words are not stressed, the vowels often get reduced and neutralized. So “your” turns to “Yer”

The “u” in “such” is pronounced as “UH” this is the IPA symbol for UH /ʌ/ Many people struggle to compare “AH” with “UH”> IF this is you, think of the ‘u’ words as having a closed jaw- teeth more together, where the “AH” vowel has an open jaw and the teeth are apart.

UH AH
cup cop
Hug hog
Hut hot

The “CH” in “such” is pronounced as two sounds- this is called an affricate: the sound consists of a t stop sound followed by a+ “SH” fricative sound “TSHHHH”, sutchhhh”. As “CH” links to “a” the result sounds more like “chuh”
Such pause “uh” = “suchuh”

The word “a” is reduced to “uh” or a schwa sound when unstressed and followed by a consonant. So rather than such “EH” or such “AA”, you’ll hear “uh”

The “oo” vowels in the word “good” are often mistaken for the “OO” pronunciation. So, the word “good” will mistakenly sound more like “GOOOOD”.

The pronunciation change will mean that the lips will be relaxed, rather than rounded. The tongue will fall lower and relaxed into the middle of the mouth- in a neutral position- it’s just hanging out. If this is difficult for you, just say the “UH” sound as in UH-OH but purse your lips slightly forward and you’ll have the sound

The /d/ is unreleased in “good”. This means that the tongue does not release off of the alveolar ridge to make a /d/ sound, but rather stays connected right through to the /L/ in “listener. The /d/ links to “listener” to become “dlistener”
Many people struggle with /d/ because they keep their voice off, so it will sound more like a /t/ sound. GOOT>
Compare /t/ and /d/ T, D- the /d/ involves voice, so feel your vocal folds vibrating- feel that buzz.

The first “e” in “listener” is deleted, so instead of “lis TEN ER”- the word becomes two syllables “LISS NER” notice how the “t” in listener is silent. “lis ner”

STRESS

Can you hear how the words “such” and the syllable “LIS in “listener” are stressed more than the others? These are the words that give the greatest meaning to the phrase, and express the greatest amount of important information.

INTONATION

Notice how the intonation or pitch of music of speech falls after the final stressed word. This is a falling intonation, which indicates a statement with confidence.

Compliment: " I like your style!"

- **IPA:** /aɪ laɪk jə stɑɪl/
- **Common Response:** "Thank you! I love putting outfits together."
- **IPA Response:** /θæŋk ju! aɪ lʌv 'pʊtɪŋ 'aʊtfɪts tə'geðə/



The word “I” is generally not the primary stressed word in a sentence, so it becomes “unstressed”, when that occurs, rather than a full, clear, precise vowel production, the vowel gets shortened, produced quicker and with more neutrality. The result is that a typical diphthong vowel such as “AH EE”, the reduction can sound more like “uh”

The word “like” on the other hand in this phrase receives some stress, so the vowel stays as an /aI/ diphthong. This is the symbol for /aI/ and it occurs in words like “my, buy, and spy”

As the /k/ in “like” links to “your”, the result is a blended “kyor” - linking occurs to speed the message up and contributes to the fluency of the message.

The /k/ in “like” is also not released in this instance, which is often the case when followed by consonants. The /k/ is not released with air like in “likKKK” but rather it’s held until the ‘Y’ is produced.

The word “Your” because it’s not a stressed word in this phrase, reduces to “yer” - this is an unstressed “reduction” where the vowel becomes neutralized. The /r/ in “your” is a rhotic /r/- so there is a pulling back or bunching of the tongue and the tongue tip curls into a bowl shape, rather than laying flat or touching the palate which creates a trill sound.

The “y” in “style” is a diphthong vowel, consisting of two vowel sounds. “AH EE” this is the IPA symbol /aI/ - this sound is created by sliding from an open jaw vowel to the “EE” sound “AH EEE”

The /L/ in “style” is pronounced as a dark L - this means that instead of using the tip of the tongue to contact the palate for /L/- a greater surface area of the tongue contacts the palate - near the middle of the tongue as well. Some speakers use mainly the middle of the tongue for contact and don’t contact the tongue tip at all. Compare a clear L vs a dark L. Dark L is heard more commonly at the ends of syllables.

STRESS

Can you hear how the words “like” and “style” are stressed more than the others? These are the words that give the greatest meaning to the phrase, and express the greatest amount of important information.

Notice also, that if the meaning is changed, so too does the stress. Here, a speaker is confirming that they truly do like the style so the stress is only placed on “Like” -

and this speaker is returning the compliment so the only word stressed here is “YOUR” to emphasize that word. Let’s listen

INTONATION

Notice how the intonation or pitch of music of speech falls after the final stressed word. This is a falling intonation, which indicates a statement with confidence.

Compliment: "You look (so) handsome"

IPA: /ju lʊk sɒ 'hændsəm/

Common Response: "Thank you!"

IPA Response: /θæŋk ju/



"You" starts with the "y" sound, in IPA it's this symbol /j/. For many non-native English speakers, they substitute this sound "j" for "y" so it sounds more like "joo, joo look"

Begin the pronunciation with an /i/ "EEE" -where the sides of your tongue are anchored on the upper side teeth, the lips are spread into more of a smile, and the middle of your tongue is pressed high near the palate or top of the mouth.

Compare "joo as in "jewel"" vs "YYYYooo"

The "oo" vowels in the word "look" are often mistaken for the "OO" pronunciation.

The vowel in "look" is the upsilon sound, and this is the IPA symbol /ʊ/

The lips will be relaxed, rather than rounded. The tongue will fall lower and relaxed into the middle of the mouth- in a neutral position.

The /k/ in "look" is UNRELEASED

Unreleased means that the tongue does not release from its position and allow air to flow out, it's like it's held until the next sound. This happens because the /k/ is followed by a consonant /s/ in "so"

This helps the speaker to link the words together to speak fluently, and to speed up the rate of speech

So instead of "look" so" it will be "lookso"

To link "look" to "handsome" it will sound more like "Kansom"

The "a" in handsome is pronounced as "AA" and this is the symbol /æ/

This sound is created with an open jaw, low tongue and slight retracted lips, kind of like a smile.

Compare "AH" with "AA" - this is a more retracted lip position.

Since the "AA" is followed by a nasal sound, the /n/- there is anticipation of nasality, so the velum begins to lower during the vowel- which can give the "AA" a slightly more nasal quality than the same sound followed by a consonant.

Compare "AA" in "Apple" vs "AA" in "AA" Andrew"

The /d/ in "handsome" is often deleted altogether. This happens when /t/ and /d/ follow /n/. Not every speaker deletes these /d/ sounds, but it is common enough in the general American accent. So instead of a full /d/ in "hand some" you might hear "han sum"

The “ome” in “handsome” is pronounced as “UH” and this is the IPA symbol for unstressed “uh” sounds. /ə/ this is called the schwa sound. It is very close in pronunciation to the “UH” as in “sun” or “UP” only it is pronounced quicker.

STRESS

Can you hear how the syllable “HAN” in “handsome” are stressed more than the others? This is the word that gives the greatest meaning to the phrase, and express the greatest amount of important information.

INTONATION

Notice how the one speaker uses a flatter intonation
this expresses less interest, less emotion



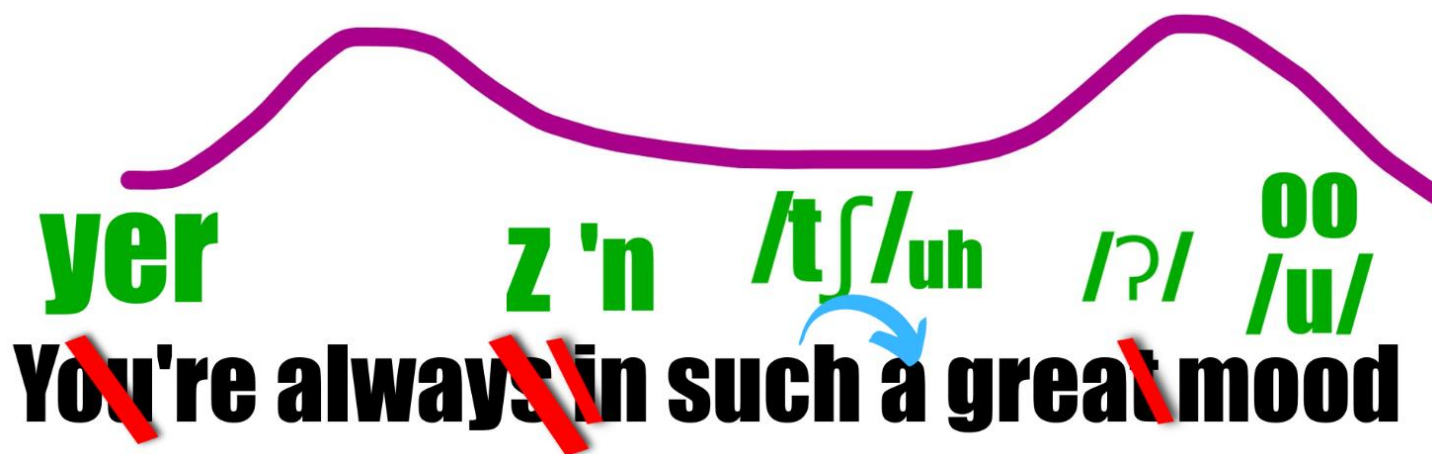
Than this speaker who is using a greater intonation variation with really high and low sing-songy intonation.



This indicates playfulness, fun, and friendliness.

Notice how the intonation or pitch of music of speech falls after the final stressed word. This is a falling intonation, which indicates a statement with confidence.

Compliment: “You’re always in such a great mood”



The reduced form of “your” is “yer”. This is the unstressed version of this word, and includes less tongue and lip movement because both are slightly more neutralized. So instead of “YOR” you’ll hear “YER”

The /l/ in “always” is pronounced, rather than deleted, so the tongue tip will fully make contact with the palate: feel if your tongue tip touches the roof when you say AL ways.

LINKING

The Rhotic /r/ sound links to “always” to become “Ralways”

The /w/ in “always” is a rounded lip position sound /w/. For languages that substitute either a /v/ biting lip sound, or a more frictional sound with the lips against the teeth “always”- think of the /w/ like a “OO” “OO sound. Tighten your lips into a small rounded position.

The “s” in “always” is pronounced as a voiced /z/ sound. Compare the voiceless /s/ “alwayssss” versus /z/

The /z/ sound in “always” links to “in” to create “zin”

The ‘l’ vowel in “in” is a lax vowel. What this means is that the more tense version of this vowel the /i/ “EE” sound involves the tongue in a tense tight high position. Feel how the middle of your tongue is high and tense for /i/ Now pull the middle of your tongue down and relax your lips as well for “IH”. This vowel is represented with this symbol in IPA /ɪ/

But on top of that lax pronunciation, this word is unstressed, so it gets reduced as well. The vowel is quickened, neutralized to the point of almost deletion to sound more like “n”

The “ch” in such is pronounced as a t sound plus a pulled back “sh” sound. T+shhhh, sutch!

The “ch” in “such links to the “A” which is pronounced “uh” with a schwa sound. The result is “chuH’.

The R in the r-blend in “great” is often difficult for non-native English speakers, as this sound is typically pronounced as a trill instead of a rhotic “r”. So Great, may sound more like GDET

To create the rhotic “r” and avoid the trill or alveolar contact in “great”- you’ll need to give your tongue time and pull the tip of your tongue down further and back to avoid touching the roof. “GERREAT”

The “r” in “yer” is a rhotic, so rather than “yuh” curl your tongue tip back and bunch the body of your tongue back.
“yer”

The “s” in “easy” is pronounced as a voiced /z/ fricative sound in the American English accent. Compare the sounds of /s/ vs /z/ “Eeessee vs eazzzy”

The “y” in “easy” is pronounced as the “EE” sound. Pull the middle of the tongue high up to the palate for a true “EE” “EEZEZEE /i/

The first “To” reduces to “tuh”- it’s an unstressed word within the phrase and is followed by a consonant.

The /t/ in “to” becomes a flap /t/ since it is unstressed and because it’s surrounded by vowels. The result of a flap /t/ pronunciation is that it sound more like “duh”

The /t/ in “talk” is aspirated- so a small puff of air is released. The American English accent includes this small aspiration, represented by a small /h/ superscript in IPA. – think of it like you’re producing a small /h/ sound after the /t/.

The /a/ in “talk” is a vowel that includes open rounded lips, not closed and tight lips.
Also, the “L” in “talk” is silent

The “k” is unreleased in “talk” as it links to “to”- So instead of a kH sound, it will be held until the /t/ in “to” is released

The final “to” is pronounced as /tu/ with the /u/ vowel and not reduced because it is the last word and not linked to any other words.

STRESS

Can you hear how the words “easy” and “talk” are stressed more than the others? These are the words that give the greatest meaning to the phrase, and express the greatest amount of important information.

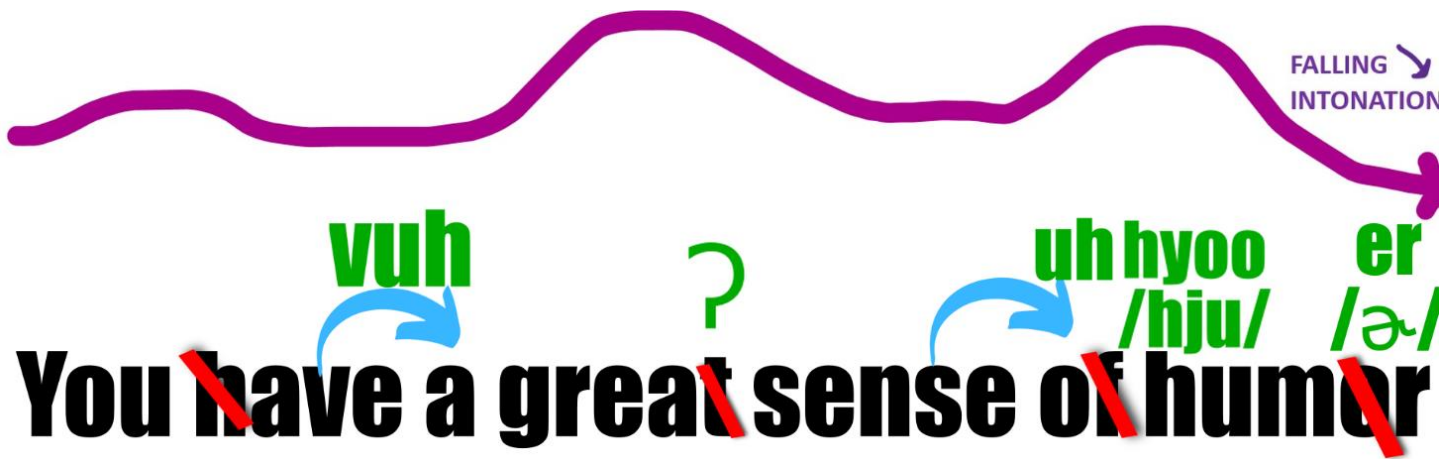
INTONATION

Notice how the one speaker uses a flatter intonation
this expresses less emotion

Notice how the intonation or pitch of music of speech falls after the final stressed word. This is a falling intonation, which indicates a statement with confidence.

Compliment: "You have a great sense of humor!"

- **IPA:** /ju hæv ə greɪt sɛns əv 'hjumə/
- **Common Response:** "Thanks, I try!"
- **IPA Response:** /θæŋks, aɪ traɪ/



The h/ in "have" when unstressed can be reduced in airflow. Resulting in "Youave"- compare the airflow of /h/ in have vs "humor" where humor has the airflow aspiration

The "a" in "have" can be reduced even further to "uv"

The /v/ in "have" and "has" links to the word "A" while the "a" gets reduced to a schwa "uh" sound and this results in "vuh" and "zuh"

The "t" in "great" is pronounced as a glottal t in the American English accent since the /t/ is followed by a consonant /s/ In "sense": the result sounds like "grea_sense" instead of greaTsense

The /s/ in "sense" links to "of" to become "suv"

The word "of" is pronounced with a voiced /v/ for some speakers

And for other speakers who reduce even further will reduce to just a schwa sound. So instead of "of" they will say "uh"

The /h/ in "humour" is typically pronounced with a released aspirated air

But some speakers do delete the "h" in this word, so it results in sounding more like "Yoo mer"

The "hu" in "humour" is pronounced "HYOOO" rather than "HOO"- think of it as a little "y" sound inserted in there.

The "or" in "humour" is pronounced as "er" rather than "OR"

STRESS

Can you hear how the words "good/great" and "humor" are stressed more than the others? These are the words that give the greatest meaning to the phrase, and express the greatest amount of important information.

INTONATION

Notice how the intonation or pitch of music of speech falls either throughout the phrase or after the final stressed word. This is a falling intonation, which indicates a statement with confidence.

Compliment: "You're so funny!"

- **IPA:** /jʊr soʊ 'fʌni/
- **Common Response:** "Haha, thanks!"
- **IPA Response:** /'hɑː, hɑː, θæŋks/



Speakers have the choice to contract or join words or not. A more formal way of speaking would include no contraction, such as these examples

Or for a more conversational example, the speaker will tend to contract "you" and "are" into "you're". Further reduction of this contraction can occur and sound like "yer"

The "r" in the American English accent is rhotic so curl the tongue tip back and form a bowl shape as you bunch your tongue back in your mouth: "yer"

The "u" in "funny" is represented by this IPA vowel /ʌ/. This sound includes a more closed jaw and neutral lip position "uh" "funny"

STRESS

The speakers that do not contract the words will place nearly equal stress on each word here.
You are so funny

The speakers who reduce and contract the "you are" to "yer" will stress on each word as well "yer so funny"

INTONATION

Notice how the intonation or pitch of music of speech falls either throughout the phrase or after the final stressed word. This is a falling intonation, which indicates a statement with confidence.

One female speaker uses a rising intonation for the statement, which typically indicates flirtiness and increases friendliness of the statement rather than a fact.



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