

POSITIONAL VARIATION

Initial stop consonants (p,b,t,d,k,g)

Compare: pill bill
 time dime
 cage gauge

Initial voiceless stops are ASPIRATED
(symbol = C^h)

Medial voiceless stops (p, t, k)

paper upper/appear apple/apply
tutor attic/attack critic/critique
cooking decade/decayed bacon/become

At the beginning of a stressed syllable,
medial voiceless stops are also aspirated

Medial /nt/ before an unstressed syllable =
"disappearing /t/"

in(t)ernational
San(t)a Claus
quan(t)ity

en(t)ertainment
Win(t)er Quarter
twen(t)y-three

Medial /h/ also tends to disappear before
unstressed syllables

inhibit
historic
vehicular

in(h)ibition
pre(h)istoric
ve(h)icle
vé(h)emently

Special Case of a medial // and /n/

$\left. \begin{array}{l} /t/ \\ /d/ \\ /n/ \end{array} \right\} + \text{unstressed syllable with } \left\{ \begin{array}{l} // \\ /n/ \end{array} \right. = \text{SYLLABIC } [n, l]$

syllabic [ŋ]

syllabic [l]

glottalized /t/:
important
certainly
sentence

little
bottle
riddle
tunnel

nasal release on /d/:
sudden
wouldn't
bread and butter

metal/medal/meddle

Final Consonants

Compare: bus buzz

How are they different?

- voiceless/voiced final consonant
- vowel length (symbol = V:)
- for fricatives & affricates:
length/strength of release

seyf sey:v

pleys pley:z

tiyθ tiy:ð

rɪtʃ rɪ:dʒ

• for stops:

voiced & voiceless UNRELEASED (symbol = C°)

læk° læ:g°

rɪp° rɪ:b°

dɛt° dɛ:d°

Special case: Medial /t/

The NAE flap /ɾ /

Listen:

water butter pretty

Compare:

forty fourteen

atom atomic

matter master

What's the difference between the medial /t/ in the two columns?

RULE--What two conditions must be met for a flap to occur?

1. between voiced sounds
2. ~~at the beginning of an~~ unstressed syllable