



3 Weak forms

Listen to the following sentences and fill each gap with one or more words.
(Some verbs are in their abbreviated forms, e.g. *I've / he's / we'd*).

Example: Would you like to go to the
canteen for a sandwich?

1 I'm going (a) _____ town (b) _____ half (c) _____
hour.

2 (a) _____ just got a present (b) _____ my father.

3 I think they (a) _____ gone (b) _____ library.

4 (a) _____ like (b) _____ glass (c) _____ two
(d) _____ water.

5 They thanked me (a) _____ helping (b) _____ find
the money.

6 (a) _____ know (b) _____ Mary is?

7 Last time I saw (a) _____ she (b) _____ on
(c) _____ way (d) _____ town.

8 If (a) _____ been sensible (b) _____ listened
(c) _____ my teacher.

9 Last night we went to a place (a) _____
lots of cafes.



Grammatical words, such as **prepositions** (e.g. *to*), **articles** (e.g. *the*), **pronouns** (e.g. *them*) and **modal** or **auxiliary verbs** (e.g. *have*), are usually found in very weak, short forms, often containing schwa (see page v). See Test 11 for strong forms.

11

Weak or strong?

Decide if the underlined words are likely to be in their weak form or their strong form.

Example:

Who did you give the money to?

To my sister.

weak strong

_____ ✓

✓

1 I'd like a cup of coffee.

2 – My sister used to go out with Elvis.

– Not the Elvis!

3 What's your dress made of?

4 That's her! Over there!

5 – Do you like jazz?

– Yes, I do.

6 I'm going to study maths and physics,

but I'm not sure where.

7 – Who's that letter from?

– From my parents.

8 I really like rock and roll.

9 – Which did you order? Fish or meat?

– I ordered fish and meat. I'm feeling hungry.



The strong form of pronunciation of a word is usually found:

a) When it ends a sequence. *What is it made of?*

b) When it gives new information or stands alone. *Who did Her!*

c) When it contrasts with another word. *I gave it to her, not him.*

