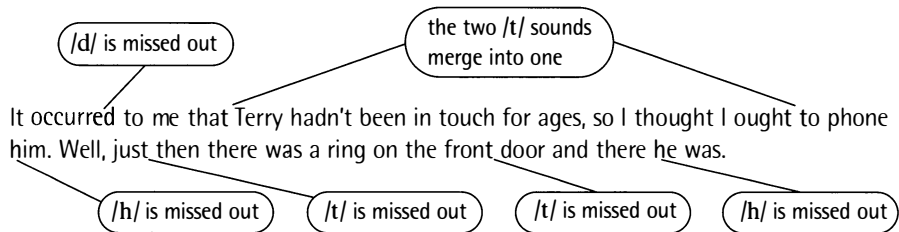


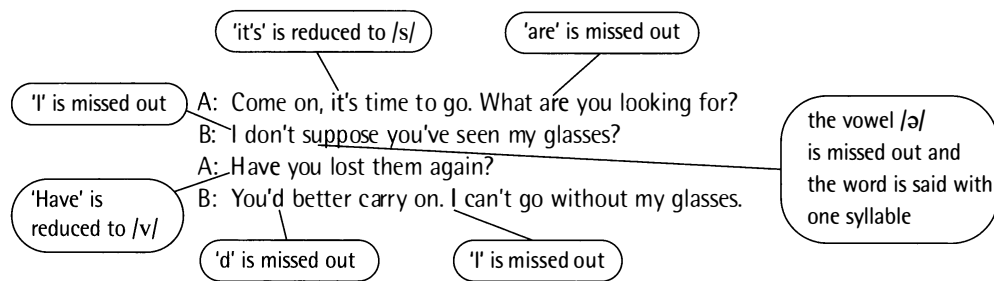
# Pronunciation in slow and fast speech (2)

In fast speech, sounds that are found in words spoken slowly may be missed out. Listen and notice how the highlighted sounds are missed out in this conversation extract:



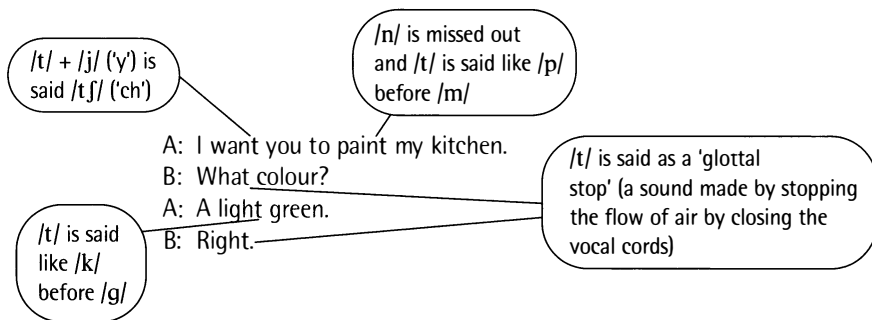
For more details, see Units 8, 9, 29 and 30.

As well as sounds, syllables or whole words that we would expect to hear in slow speech may be reduced or missed out in fast speech. Listen and notice how the highlighted parts are reduced or missed out in this conversation:



For more details, see Units 27–30.

Sounds in words may also change in fast speech compared with how they are said in slow speech or how they are represented in dictionaries. Listen and notice how the sound /t/ changes in the highlighted parts of this conversation:



For more details, see Units 26 and 29.

It is not essential to make these changes in your own speech in order to be understood, although they can help your speech sound more natural and fluent.

# Exercises

**6.1** Listen to these sentences as many times as you need. First you will hear them said slowly and carefully and then at a more normal speed for conversation. Indicate the differences you hear in the 'conversation' versions.

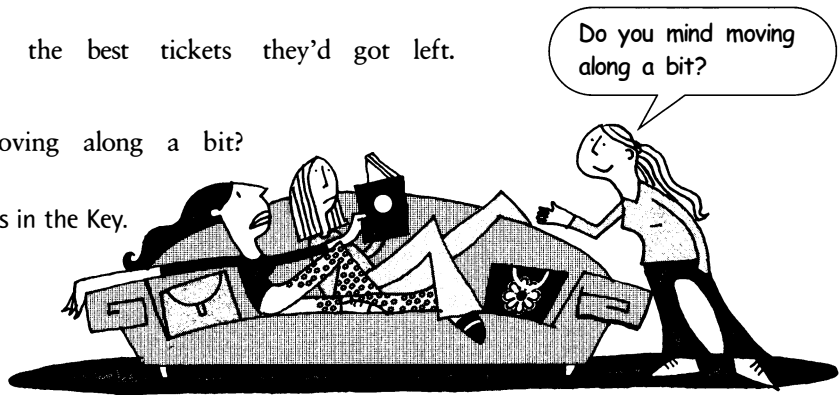
**EXAMPLE** You couldn't give me a lift, could you?

*a 'weak' form* (/jə/, not /ju:z/)  
*/t/ is missed out*  
*/t/ is missed out*

*/v/ is pronounced like /b/*  
*/d/ + /j/ ('y') is pronounced /dʒ/ (as in 'jam')*

- 1 Has he been to see you since Saturday?
- 2 I asked her for the best tickets they'd got left.
- 3 Do you mind moving along a bit?

Now check your answers in the Key.



**6.2** Listen to these conversations as many times as you need and fill in the spaces. How is the pronunciation of each missing word different from its slow form?

- doesn't*  
*'n' is said like 'm'*
- 1 A: Rick *doesn't* take *one* bit of interest. He .....  
 B: That ..... terrible. Why ..... do that?  
 A: Maybe ..... jealous ..... she's ..... so well.
  - 2 A: ..... know ..... coming?  
 B: Everyone ..... Cathy.  
 A: What time ..... they be here?  
 B: ..... six.
  - 3 A: ..... coming out ..... a walk?  
 B: Okay. .... my coat.  
 A: ..... hat. ....  
 ..... gloves, too.

Now check your answers in the Key.

**Follow up:** Record yourself saying the sentences in exercise 6.1. First say them slowly and carefully, and then at normal speed. Then compare what you said with what you heard in the recording.

