




Changes in Consonant Quality

Changes in the Standard



1. Voicing and devoicing

- Initial lenis [b, d, g] – partially devoiced.
- Final lenis [b, d, g] – voiceless.
- [t] in the intervocalic position is voiced.
 - [ˈbetə] – [ˈbedə]



2. Loss of [h]

- In rapid speech the initial [h] is lost in form words and tends to die out from the language.
- [i wɒnts ɜ tə kʌm]
- No loss of [h] in stressed syllables!



3. Initial “hw”

- Wh-words are pronounced with an initial breath-like sound [ʍ] instead of [w].
- what – [ʍɒt], why – [ʍaɪ]



4. Loss of final [ŋ]

- [ɪn] instead of [ɪŋ] at the ending of a word.
- waitin' – ['weɪtɪn]



5. Spread of “dark” [ɫ]

- This tendency is influenced by the American pronunciation.
 - [bɪ'li:v] – [bɪ'ɫi:v]
- Sometimes [l] becomes vocalized.
 - ['mɪok]



6. Glottal stop

- It can appear only in two cases:
 - as a realization of syllable-final [t]:
 - [dəpɑ:ʔmɪt]
 - in certain consonant clusters (“glottal reinforcements”).
- Among younger speakers, it can also be heard finally before vowels or in absolute final position:
 - [pɪk ɪʔ ʌp], [gɛʔ]



7. Palatalized final [kʰ]

- It is often heard in such words as
 - [wi:kʰ], [kwikʰ]

8. Linking and intrusive [r]

- Linking “r” – an orthographic “r” pronounced word-finally before a vowel.
 - summer activities
- Intrusive “r” – the sound “r” inserted before a following vowel even though there is no “r” in spelling.
 - *I saw-r-a film today*

9. Combinative changes

- [tj, dj, sj] → [tʃ, dʒ, ʃ]
 - ['æktjʊəl] → ['æktʃʊəl]
- In the clusters of two stops, where the loss of plosion is usually observed, each sound is pronounced with audible release.
 - ['æk-tɪv]
- [j] is lost following [l, s, z, n].
 - [nu:z]



10. Elision, reduction, assimilation

- This tendency is reflected in the pronunciation of the young generation.
 - have to [ˈhæftə],
 - perhaps you [pəˈhæpʃu:],
 - can [kn], etc.
- 