

Pronunciation: word linking

- 1 When a word begins with a vowel sound and the previous word ends in a consonant sound, we link the two sounds together in continuous natural speech. Listen again to candidate 2 on page 10 speaking and note how he links his words.

What I like most is the fact that it's near the coast because I love the sea. I always try to go there at weekends. I also think it has good facilities – there's plenty to do, particularly for young people as there's a leisure centre and swimming pool, two cinemas and a large shopping centre. One thing I don't like is that we don't have many parks or green spaces so there aren't many nice places to walk or play.

- 2 Mark the linking in these statements.
- I'd like to get a place of my own as soon as I can.
 - I hope I can take early retirement before I'm sixty.
 - I'd like to start a family when I'm about thirty years old.
 - Next year I'm planning to take a sabbatical so that I can travel to South America.
 - I've always wanted to get a degree in electronic engineering.
 - I can't afford to take a gap year unless I can get a job and save up.

Technique

Linking your words together will make you sound more natural and fluent. Remember it is the sounds that link, not the letters, e.g. *like is* links together because the final sound of /laɪk/ links with the initial sound of /ɪz/ to give /laɪkɪz/.

- 3  1.11 Listen and repeat the statements in 2, paying attention to the linking.

- 4 Complete the statements so that they are true for you.

- A place I'd like to visit is _____
- I've always enjoyed _____
- I don't often eat _____
- What I like about my home is _____
- Learning English is _____
- I've always wanted to _____
- When I get up in the morning _____

- 5 Identify and mark the linking in the statements.

- 6 Practise saying the statements.

Phonemic Chart

ɪ week	ɪ thin	ʊ book	u: shoot	ɪə hear	eɪ day	:	
e let	ə later	ɜ: learn	ɔ: for	ʊə mature	ɔɪ toy	əʊ flow	
æ map	ʌ fun	ɑ: far	ɒ stop	eə fair	aɪ light	aʊ down	
p pen	b bite	t town	d do	tʃ check	dʒ jam	k can	g go
f fight	v very	θ Thursday	ð they	s same	z zone	ʃ shut	ʒ leisure
m male	n night	ŋ ring	h hot	l like	r right	w wait	j year