

ELISION

Elision refers to the removal or omission of one or more sounds in when pronouncing particular words. In certain circumstances, sounds disappear, a phoneme (vowel or a consonant) may have zero realization or be deleted (Roach, 2000, p.140). The “missing out” of a consonant or a vowel, or both, that would be present in the slow colloquial pronunciation of a word in isolation (Brown, 1978, p.60). Apart from internal elisions and those associated with weak forms, sounds may be elided in rapid, colloquial speech, especially at word boundaries (Gimson, 1978, p. 297). These sounds include vowels and consonants.

1.Vowels

Loss of the weak vowel /ə /

Word	Transcription	Transcription (using elision)
Tomato	tə'mɑ:təʊ	
Potato	pə'tetəʊ	
Today	tə'deɪ	
Perhaps	pə'hæps	
Canary	kə'neəri	
Tonight	tə'naɪt	

Loss of initial /ə / when followed by a continuant and preceded by a word final consonant

Phrase	Transcription	Transcription (using elision)
Get another	get ə'nʌðə	
Run along	rʌn ə'lɒŋ	
Not alone	nɒt ə'ləʊn	

When an appropriate vowel precedes word initial /ə /, it may coalesce with the preceding vowel

Phrase	Transcription	Transcription (using elision)
go away	gəʊ ə'weɪ	
try again	traɪ ə'geɪn	

When final /ə / occurs with a following final /r / and word initial vowel /ə /

Phrase	Transcription	Transcription (using elision)
father and son	'fɑ:ðər ænd sʌn	
over and above	'əʊvər ænd ə'bʌv	
as a matter of fact	æz ə'mætər ɒv fækt	

2.Consonants

This type of elision takes place mostly in words ending with /t/ or /d/ and followed by a word with an initial consonant.

Phrase	Transcription	Transcription (using elision)
Next day	nekst deɪ	
First flight	fɜ:st flaɪt	
Kept quiet	kept 'kwaɪət	
Just one	dʒʌst wʌn	
Went away	went ə'weɪ	
Told you	təʊld ju:	
Pushed them	pʊʃt ðem	
Old man	əʊld mæn	
Stopped speaking	stɒpt 'spi:kɪŋ	
Liked you	laɪkt ju:	