

1-TOM, 11-SON  
MODIFICATIONS OF VOWELS IN CONNECTED SPEECH

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**ANNOTATION**

This article gives information about in connected speech vowels can change their quality under the influence of other sounds.

**Key words:** Quantitative, qualitative, rhythm, stress, unstressed, vowel elision

**Vowel reduction**

The modifications of vowels in a speech chain are traced in the following directions:

quantitative

qualitative

both

These changes of vowels are determined by: the position of the vowel in the word, accentual structure, tempo of speech, rhythm, etc.

A quantitative modification of vowels the decrease of the vowel quantity (the shortening of the vowel length) The shortening of the vowel length occurs in unstressed positions blackboard [o:], sorrow [eu] In these cases reduction affects both the length of the unstressed vowels and their quality.

A quantitative modification of vowels. The length of a vowel depends on its position in a word varies in different phonetic environments. English vowels are said to have positional length, e.g. knee-need- neat → the vowel [it] is the longest in the final position, it is obviously shorter before the lenis voiced consonant [d], and it is the shortest before the for this voiceless consonant .

Qualitative modification of most vowels occurs in unstressed positions. In unstressed syllables vowels of full value are usually subjected to qualitative changes man [mæn] - sportsman ['spo: tsman], conduct ['kondəkt] - conduct [k andΛkt] (accommodation) In such cases the quality of the vowel is reduced to the neutral sound [ə].

The neutral sound [ə] is the most frequent sound of English. In continuous text it represents about eleven per cent of all sounds. This high frequency is the result of



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the rhythmic pattern: if un stressed syllables are given only a short duration, the vowel in them is reduced.

### Qualitative modification of vowels

- Slight degree of nasalization marks vowels preceded or followed by the nasal consonants [n], [m] "never", "no", "then", "men"(accommodation)

### Vowel elision

Vowel elision the complete omission of the unstressed vowel, which is also known as zero reduction. Zero reduction is likely to occur in a sequence of unstressed syllables history, factory, literature, territory. It often occurs in initial unstressed syllables preceding the stressed one correct, believe, suppose, perhaps.

A stage-by-stage reduction of a phrase

- Has he done it? [hæz hi,dan it] [hez hi dan it] [dog from əz 1] [zi,dan dog]

Certain interrelation between the full form of a word and its reduced forms is conditioned by the tempo, rhythm and style of speech



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