

# ELISION



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# DEFINITION

- Pronunciation: [i'liʒn]
1. The **omission** of a sound or syllable when speaking
  2. The **process of joining together** or **merging** things, especially abstract ideas: unease at the elision of so many vital questions
  3. The **typical of rapid, casual speech**; the process of change in phoneme realizations produced by changing the speed and casualness of speech is caused gradation.

# DEFINITION

- For example:

| WORDS       | NO ELISION              | ELISION       |
|-------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Comfortable | / 'kʌmf <u>ə</u> təbl / | / 'kʌmftəbl / |
| Fifth       | / fɪ <u>f</u> θ /       | / fiθ /       |
| Him         | / <u>h</u> ɪm /         | / ɪm /        |
| Chocolate   | / 'tʃɒk <u>ə</u> læt /  | / 'tʃɒklæt /  |
| Vegetable   | / 'vedʒ <u>ə</u> təbl / | / 'vedʒtəbl / |

# LOSS OF WEAK VOWEL AFTER P, T, K

- In words:
  - + The vowel in the first syllable may disappear
  - + The aspiration of the initial plosive takes up the whole of the middle portion of the syllable.
- Note: Weak vowel after p, t, k is often “ə”



# LOSS OF WEAK VOWEL AFTER P, T, K

## Example:

- Potato / pə'teitəʊ / => / p'teitəʊ /
- Tomato / tə'mɑ:təʊ / => / t'mɑ:təʊ /
- Canary / kə'neəri / => / k'neəri /



# AVOIDANCE OF COMPLEX CONSONANT CLUSTERS

- It has been claimed that no normal English speaker would ever pronounce all the consonants, between the last two words of the following.
- In clusters of three plosives or two plosives plus a fricative, the middle plosive may disappear, so that the following pronunciation result.

# AVOIDANCE OF COMPLEX CONSONANT CLUSTERS

## Example:

- Looked back / 'lʊkt'bæk / => / 'lʊk'bæk /
- Acts / ækts / => / æks /
- George the Sixth's throne: /dʒɔ:dʒ ðə sikθs θrəʊn/ => /dʒɔ:dʒ ðə siksθrəʊn/



# LOSS OF FINAL V IN “OF” BEFORE CONSONANTS

Example:

- lots of them:

/ 'lɒts əv ðəm / => / 'lɒts ə ðəm /

- Waste of money:

/ 'weɪst əv 'mʌni/ => / 'weɪst ə 'mʌni/



## LOSS OF FINAL V IN “OF” BEFORE CONSONANTS

- These examples are typical of very casual speech, and would be regarded as substandard by conservative listeners.
- A more common case is where the vowel of “of” is lost, leaving either “v” in a **voiced context** ( e.g. “all of mine” => /ɔ:l v main/ ) or “f” in a **voiceless context** (e.g. “ best of three” => / best f θri:/ )

# OTHER CASES

## 1. Weak vowel + n, l or r becoming syllabic consonants.

E.g. Tonight /tə'nait/ => /t'nait/  
police /pə'li:s/ => /p'lis/

## 2. Contractions of grammatical words

- E.g. Had, did, would => / 'd/  
will, shall => / 'll/  
Is => / 's/



# OTHER CASES

Example:

3. When many consonants go together, elision happens

| word/combination | no elision     | elision       |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Asked            | [a:skt]        | [a:st]        |
| Lecture          | ['lɛktʃə]      | ['lɛkʃə]      |
| hard disk        | [,hɑ:d'dɪsk]   | [,hɑ:'dɪsk]   |
| kept quiet       | [,kɛpt'kwaɪət] | [,kɛp'kwaɪət] |
| kept calling     | [,kɛpt'ko:lɪŋ] | [,kɛp'ko:lɪŋ] |

# Let's relax !





# Let's relax !

***Q1: In elision, How is***  
**“correct” transcribed?**

- A. /kə'rekt/
- B. /kə'ret/
- **C. /k'rekt/**



# Let's relax !

*Q2: Choose the type of elision of “interest”*

- **A.** Loss of the weak vowel after /p/, /t/, /k/.
- B. Weak vowel +/n/, /l/ or /r/ becomes syllabic consonants.
- C. Loss of final ‘v’ in ‘of’ before consonants
- D. Avoidance of complex consonant clusters

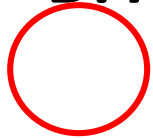
➡ **/ 'intrəst/**



# Let's relax !

***Q3: Choose the type of elision of “scripts”***

- A. Loss of the weak vowel after /p/, /t/, /k/.
- B. Weak vowel +/n/, /l/ or /r/ becomes syllabic consonants.
- C. Loss of final ‘v’ in ‘of’ before consonants
- D. Avoidance of complex consonant clusters



**/ skrips/**



# Let's relax !

***Q4: In elision, How is “desktop”***  
**transcribed?**

- ☒ A. 'dɛs, tɒp
- B. 'dɛsk, tɒp
- C. 'dɛskt, tɒp



# Let's relax !

Q5: *In elision*, how is

**“want to”** transcribed?

- A. ['wɒnt, tʊ]
- B. ['wɒnt, ʊ]
- **C. ['wɒn, tʊ]**

