

University of California, Irvine

International Programs

Reduced Words and Linked Expressions

These are some grammar words. You can see both their full forms (the way they sound when they're said slowly and carefully) and their reduced forms (the way they sound in normal, connected speech).

Prepositions

at	/æt/	/ət/	They're <u>at</u> work.
for	/fɔr/	/fər/	This is <u>for</u> you.
from	/frʌm/	/frəm/	He's far <u>from</u> home.
of	/əv/	/ə/	I drank a cup <u>of</u> tea. (mostly before consonant sounds)
		/əv/	I drank a cup <u>of</u> apple juice. (mostly before vowel sounds)
to	/tuw/	/tə/	They went <u>to</u> school.

Articles

a	/ey/	/ə/	I made a mistake. (used before consonant sounds)
an	/æn/	/ən/	Do you want an apple? (used before vowel sounds)
the	/ðə/	/ðə/	The moon is shining. (the most common pronunciation)
		/ði/	The earth is round. (often used before vowel sounds)

Pronouns

you	/yuw/	/yə/	What do you want?
he	/hiy/	/iy/	Is he here yet?
him	/hɪm/	/ɪm/	I gave him a present.
her	/hər/	/ər/	I gave her a present.
them	/ðɛm/	/əm/	We talked to them.
your	/yuwr/	/yə/	What's in your bag?
his	/hɪz/	/ɪz/	That's his book.
our	/awr/	/ər/	This is our house.
your	/yɔr/	/yə/	What's your name?
their	/ðeyr/	/ðer/	It's their turn.

Conjunctions

and	/ænd/	/ən/, /n/	It goes up and down.
or	/ɔr/	/ər/	Did he say yes or no?
because	/biykəz/	/kəz/	Why? 'Cause I say so.

Helping verbs

am	/æm/	/əm/, /m/	I'm reading a book.
are	/ɑr/	/ər/, /r/	We're waiting for you.
is	/ɪz/	/əz/, /z/, /s/	He's studying.
have	/hæv/	/əv/, /v/	I've finished my work.
has	/hæz/	/əz/, /z/, /s/	He's studied.
had	/hæd/	/əd/, /d/	I'd been waiting for ten minutes.
do	/duw/	/də/	What do you want?
does	/dʌz/	/dəz/, /z/, /s/	Bob's doing his homework.
did	/dɪd/	/əd/, /d/	Why'd you do that?
will	/wɪl/	/əl/, /l/	We'll talk to him.
would	/wʊd/	/əd/, /d/	They'd like to have lunch.
can	/kæn/	/kən/, /kn/	We can help you.
could	/kʊd/	/kəd/	What could you do?

Common Linked Expressions

going to	/ɡoʊɪŋtuw/	/ɡənə/	We're going to play soccer.
want to	/wɑntuw/	/wənə/	I want to read that book.
have to	/hævtuw/	/hæftə/	I have to do my homework.
has to	/hæztuw/	/hæstə/	He has to go to work.
could have	/kʊdhæv/	/kʊdə/	We could have finished earlier.
should have	/ʃʊdhæv/	/ʃʊdə/	You should have studied harder.
would have	/wʊdhæv/	/wʊdə/	If I'd thought of it, I would have studied earlier.
must have	/mʌsthæv/	/məstə/	That must have been difficult.
might have	/maɪthæv/	/maɪtə/	They might have known what to do.
kind of	/kaɪndəv/	/kaɪndə/	I'm kind of busy right now.
sort of	/sɔrtəv/	/sɔrtə/	It's sort of hot today.
a lot of	/ələtəv/	/ələtə/	This will take a lot of time.
lots of	/lɒtsəv/	/lɒtsə/	We need lots of help.