



Dialectal differences—CV Linking

1 Structurally, the English language is fairly homogeneous all over the
2 world, but there are marked differences in pronunciation between its
3 many dialects. It is interesting to note that some of the most striking
4 of these differences occur in the small island of Britain, a fact for
5 which there is, of course, a perfectly logical historical explanation.
6 Visitors from the United States of America, where only three main
7 dialects are recognized, are often taken aback when they hear the
8 widely differing British accents.

9 During the Second World War, a number of British and American
10 mechanics who were stationed in a certain country in the Near East,
11 were living together in a local boarding house. One day at tea-time an
12 American who hailed from Kansas was sitting opposite a
13 Yorkshireman who had a strong local accent and two Londoners, one
14 of whom spoke in the Received Pronunciation while the other had a
15 marked Cockney accent. After listening for some time to the
16 conversation of these three, the Kansan suddenly burst in with: “Say, I
17 can’t figure out how you Britishers understand one another.”

Green circle: CV linking.

The source of the text reproduced above is unknown. It was inherited from colleagues some time in the early 1990s. I would be grateful to receive any information about the source of this text.



Dialectal differences—R Linking

18 Structurally, the English language is fairly homogeneous all over the
19 world, but there are marked differences in pronunciation between its
20 many dialects. It is interesting to note that some of the most striking
21 of these differences occur in the small island of Britain, a fact for
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31 of whom spoke in the Received Pronunciation while the other had a
32 marked Cockney accent. After listening for some time to the
33 conversation of these three, the Kansan suddenly burst in with: “Say, I
34 can’t figure out how you Britishers understand one another.”

Red circle: R linking. Note 1): no cases of ‘intrusive /r/’ were detected in this text. Note 2): for Americans, “figure out” involves normal CV linking: [ˈfɪɡjəɹ] + [aʊt] → [ˈfɪɡjəɹaʊt]; cf British [ˈfɪɡə] + [aʊt] → [ˈfɪɡəaʊt].

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Dialectal differences—Possible intrusive [j]

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36 world, but there are marked differences in pronunciation between its
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47 Yorkshireman who had a strong local accent and two Londoners, one
48 of whom spoke in the Received Pronunciation while the other had a
49 marked Cockney accent. After listening for some time to the
50 conversation of these three, the Kansan suddenly burst in with: “Say, I
51 can’t figure out how you Britishers understand one another.”

Blue circle: intrusive /j/; no intrusive /w/ detected.

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Dialectal differences—Simply no glottal stop!

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53 world, but there are marked differences in pronunciation between its
54 many dialects. It is interesting to note that some of the most striking
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66 marked Cockney accent. After listening for some time to the
67 conversation of these three, the Kansan suddenly burst in with: "Say, I
68 can't figure out how you Britishers understand one another."

Arrow: simply no glottal stop!

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Dialectal differences—All forms of linking

69 Structurally, the English language is fairly homogeneous all over the
 70 world, but there are marked differences in pronunciation between its
 71 many dialects. It is interesting to note that some of the most striking
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 81 Yorkshireman who had a strong local accent and two Londoners, one
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 83 marked Cockney accent. After listening for some time to the
 84 conversation of these three, the Kansan suddenly burst in with: "Say, I
 85 can't figure out how you Britishers understand one another."

Green circle: CV linking; Red circle: R linking; no intrusive /r/ detected; Blue circle: intrusive /j/; no intrusive /w/ detected; Arrow: simply no glottal stop!

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