

You have seen how intonation changes the meaning in words and sentences. Inside a one-syllable word, it distinguishes between a final voiced or unvoiced consonant *be-ed* and *bet*. Inside a longer word, *éunuch* vs. *unique*, the pronunciation and meaning change in terms of vocabulary. In a sentence (He seems **nice**; He **seems** nice.), the meaning changes in terms of intent.

你已经明了语调是如何在单词和句子中改变意义的。在单音节单词中，语调能区分末尾辅音是浊辅音还是清辅音，如be-ed和bet。在长一些的单词中，比如éunuch和unique，两者的发音和意义由于是不同的词汇而发生变化。在句子（He seems **nice**; He **seems** nice）中，意义由于不同的强调目的而发生变化。

In a sentence, intonation can also make a clear vowel sound disappear. When a vowel is *stressed*, it has a certain sound; when it is *not stressed*, it usually sounds like *uh*, pronounced ə. Small words like *to*, *at*, or *as* are not usually stressed, so the vowel disappears.

在句子中，语调也能使清晰的元音发音消失。当一个元音被重读时，它发某个音；当它不被重读时，往往听起来像uh，发音为ə。像to，at或as这些不重要的单词通常不重读，因而元音也听不到。

Exercise 10-2: Reduced Sounds

Track 144

Read aloud from the right-hand column. The intonation is marked for you.

To	Looks Like...	Sounds Like...	
The preposition to usually reduces so much that it's like dropping the vowel.	today	t'day	
	tonight	t'night	
	tomorrow	t'märou	
	to work	t' wrk	
	to school	t' school	
	to the store	t' th' store	
	Use a t' or tə sound to replace to .	We have to go now.	we hæftə go nəo
		He went to work.	he wentə work
		They hope to find it.	they houptə fine dit
		I can't wait to find out.	äi cæn ^(t) wai ^(t) tə fine dæot
If that same to follows a vowel sound, it will become d' or də .	We don't know what to do.	we dont know w ^(t) t' do	
	Don't jump to conclusions.	dont j'm t' c'ncloozh'nz	
	To be or not to be...	t' bee ^(v) r nät t' bee	
	He didn't get to go.	he din ge ^(t) tə gou	
	He told me to help.	he told meedə help	
	She told you to get it.	she tol joodə geddit	
	I go to work.	ai goudə wrk	
	at a quarter to two	ædə kworder də two	
	The only way to get it is...	thee ^(v) ounly waydə geddidiz	
	You've got to pay to get it.	yoov gäddə paydə geddit	
We plan to do it.	we plæn də do it		
Let's go to lunch.	lets goudə lunch		
The score was 4-6.	th' score w'z for də six		