

Lecture No. 8 (Second Year)

Chapter Twelve:

Weak Forms (page-89)

There are some words in English that can be pronounced in two different ways. They can have a **weak** and a **strong** pronunciation. Almost 40 words can be classified under this type of words, which are often called "**function words**"

- **What is a function word?**

A function word is a word that does not have a **dictionary meaning**. However, their **function** in the sentence is more important than their meaning. They include words such as "auxiliary verbs, prepositions, conjunctions, articles, demonstratives, etc. The other type of words is called "**content words**" with dictionary meaning. They include "nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs".

- **Is it a must to speak with strong and weak forms of function words?**

It is not a **must**, but it is good and **helpful** for two reasons:

1. Native speakers would find speakers with strong forms always unnatural and foreign-sounding.

2. Speakers who are not aware of weak-strong pronunciation may not understand a speaker who uses weak forms.

Examples:

Word	Strong	Weak
was	/wɒz/	/wəz/
that	/æt/	ət
could	/kʊd/	/kəd/
of	/ɒv/	/əv/

We can see from the examples above that these words have two forms of pronunciation, one is strong and another that is weak.

- **Did you notice anything related to the difference between the pronunciation of weak and strong forms in the table above?**

Think and write your answer and post it in the google classroom.

Function words are normally strong when they are produced in **isolation**. However, function words can keep its strong form in some situations, and this is going to be our topic for the next lecture.