

## Lecture No. 9 (Second Year)

## Chapter Twelve: Weak Forms and Strong forms of function words (page-89)

Function words are normally strong when they are pronounced in **isolation**, but they are pronounced weak form in connected speech. However, function words can keep its strong form in some situations.

- **When do function words keep their strong forms in connected speech?**

**1. When the function word occurs in the end of the sentence:**

Example: the word **"of"** at the end of the sentence

(I'm fond of /əv/ chips) ----- It's chips which I'm fond of /ov/)

**Note: Not all function words can occur in final position.**

**2. When a weak- form word is being contrasted or coordinated with another word.**

Example: (the letter's **from** /from/ him not **to** /tu/ him)  
/frəm/ /tə/

The words "from" and "to" are **contrasted**.

Example: (I often travel **to** /tu/ and **from** /from/ Paris )  
                                /tθ/                 /frəm/

The prepositions "to" and "from" are **coordinated**.

**3. When a weak –form word is emphasized.**

Example: (you must /m^st/ give me more money)  
/mΘs(t)/

The word "must" is **emphasized**.

#### 4. When a weak- form word is being cited or quoted.

Example: (you shouldn't put "and" /ænd/ at the end of the sentence.  
/ən(d)/

The word "and" is **quoted**.

The rest of the chapter is examples of the common weak- form words and their pronunciation in connected speech. They are left for you to read and practice.

However, there are several points which can be made here about these words.

1. Weak- form words with initial "h" letter, usually retain the /h/ sound when they occur at the beginning of the sentence. Nevertheless, it is omitted in other contexts.

Example: "have /həv/ you sent the email?"

"I told him /ɪm/ about the plan"  
/hɪm/

2. The pronunciation of "that"

a. Strong form if it is a demonstrative (That /ðæt/ is my book)

b. Weak form if it is a relative pronoun (This is the book that /ðət/ I found ...)

3. The pronunciation of "some"

a. Strong form if it is used to mean "Unknown individual" before a countable noun (Some /sʌm/ animal broke the window).

b. Weak form if it is used before:

uncountable nouns to mean "unspecified amount of" (some /səm/ money)  
or countable nouns to mean "unspecified number of" (some /səm/ books)

Other points are going to be discussed in the next lecture.