

21. 'SOME'

This word is used in two different ways. In one sense (typically, when it occurs before a countable noun, meaning "an unknown individual") it has the strong form:

'I think some animal broke it' aɪ 'θɪŋk sʌm 'æni:məl
'brəʊk ɪt

It is also used before uncountable nouns (meaning "an unspecified amount of") and before other nouns in the plural (meaning "an unspecified number of"), in such uses it has the weak form səm.

'Have some more tea' 'hæv səm 'mɔ: 'ti:

In final position: sʌm

'I've got some' aɪv 'gɒt sʌm

22. 'THERE'

When this word has a demonstrative function, it always occurs in its strong form ðeə (ðeər before vowels), e.g.

'There it is' 'ðeər ɪt 'ɪz

'Put it there' 'pʊt ɪt 'ðeə

Weak forms: ðə (before consonants)

'There should be a rule' ðə 'ʃʊd bi
ə 'ru:l

ðər (before vowels)

'There is' ðər 'ɪz

In final position the pronunciation may be ðə or ðeə.

'There isn't any, is there?' ðər 'ɪznt eni 'ɪz ðə

or ðər 'ɪznt eni 'ɪz ðeə

The remaining weak-form words are all auxiliary verbs, which are always used in conjunction with (or at least implying) another ("full") verb. It is important to remember that in their negative form (i.e. combined with 'not') they never have the weak pronunciation, and some (e.g. 'don't', 'can't') have different vowels from their non-negative strong forms.

23. 'CAN', 'COULD'

Weak forms: kən, kəd

'They can wait' 'ðeər kən 'weɪt

'He could do it' 'hi: kəd 'du: ɪt

In final position: kæn, kʊd

'I think we can' aɪ 'θɪŋk wi kæn

'Most of them could' 'məʊst əv ðəm
kʊd

24. 'HAVE', 'HAS', 'HAD'

Weak forms: əv, əz, əd (with initial h in initial position)

'Which have you seen?' 'wɪtʃ əv ju

'sɪ:n

'Which has been best?' 'wɪtʃ əz 'bi:n

'best

'Most had gone home' 'məʊst əd 'gɒn

'həʊm

In final position: hæv, hæz, hæd

'Yes, we have' 'jes wi 'hæv

'I think she has' aɪ 'θɪŋk ʃi 'hæz

'I thought we had' aɪ 'θɔ:t wi 'hæd

25. 'SHALL', 'SHOULD'

Weak forms: ʃəl or ʃɪ; ʃəd

'We shall need to hurry' wi ʃɪ 'ni:d tə
'hʌri

'I should forget it' 'aɪ ʃəd fə'get ɪt

In final position: ʃæl, ʃʊd

'I think we shall' aɪ 'θɪŋk wi 'ʃæl

'So you should' 'səʊ ju 'ʃʊd

26. 'MUST'

This word is sometimes used with the sense of forming conclusion or deduction, e.g. 'she left at 8 o'clock, so she must have arrived by now'; when 'must' is used in this way, it is rather less

likely to occur in its weak form than when it is being used in a more familiar sense of "obligation".

Weak forms: məs (before consonants)

'You must try harder' ju məs 'traɪ 'hɑ:də

məst (before vowels)

'He must eat more' hi məst 'i:t 'mɔ:

In final position: mʌst

'She certainly must' ʃi 'sɜ:tɪnli 'mʌst

27. 'DO', 'DOES'

Weak forms:

'DO' də (before consonants)

'Why do they like it?' 'waɪ də ðeɪ

'laɪk ɪt

du (before vowels)

'Why do all the cars stop?' 'waɪ du

ɔ:l ðə 'kɑ:z 'stɒp

'DOES' dəz

'When does it arrive?' 'wen dəz ɪt

ə'reɪv

In final position: du:, dʌz

'We don't smoke, but some people do'

'wi: dəʊnt 'sməʊk bət 'sʌm 'pi:pəl 'du:

'I think John does' aɪ 'θɪŋk

'dʒɒn dʌz

28. 'AM', 'ARE', 'WAS', 'WERE'

Weak forms: əm

'Why am I here?' 'waɪ əm aɪ 'hiə

ə (before consonants)

'Here are the plates' 'hɪər ə ðə 'plets

ər (before vowels)

'The coats are in there' ðə 'kəʊts ər

ɪn 'ðeə

wəz 'He was here a minute ago' hi wəz

'hɪər ə 'mɪnɪt ə'gəʊ

wə (before consonants)

'The papers were late' ðə 'peɪpəz

wə 'leɪt

wər (before vowels)

'The questions were easy' ðə 'kwɛstʃənz

wər 'i:zi

In final position: əm, ə:, wɒz, wɜ:

'She's not as old as I am' ʃiz 'nɒt

əz 'əʊld əz 'aɪ əm

'I know the Smiths are' aɪ 'nəʊ

ðə 'smɪθs ə:

'The last record was' ðə 'lɑ:st

'rekɔ:d wɒz

'They weren't as cold as we were'

ðeɪ 'wɜ:nt əz 'kəʊld əz 'wi: wɜ: