



## Building Speaking Skills

### Pronunciation: Linking consonants and vowels

Read the excerpt from the transcript below. Pay attention to how the sound with the ows (  ) link together.

Bill	Sitting here all day and they'll watch. Right under a spruce tree and no one will even know they're here. Their brain, and especially their nose, it's just like a computer. And it just gathers data.	0:41
Adrienne	He stops and picks up a white tuft of fur.	0:53
Bill	Hair off a Jack Rabbit.	0:56

When a word ends with a consonant and starts with a vowel, or ends with a vowel and starts with a consonant, the sounds link together and often sound like one word.

For example:

***"Picks up a white"***

sounds like

***"pik sup awhite"***

***"Hair off a Jack Rabbit"***

sounds like

***"hair off a jack rabbit"***

Linking can make it more difficult to understand what people are saying, but by using it in your own speech, you can sound smoother.

Now look at another passage from the audio. Mark the vowels and consonants that link together by drawing an arrow, just like passage above. (answers can be found in the appendix)

Maureen	And you can see exactly which back yard she's selecting for, you can see here, not surprisingly, the absence of fences is huge. Almost all the time it's a yard that doesn't have a fence, has a big shrub in the back.	3:26
Adrienne	Maureen can even see which garbage cans she's been into and what else she's after.	3:40

Practice saying the passage at the same time as Maureen and Adrienne. Try to sound exactly like them. Pay attention to linking vowels and consonants. You can practice as many times as you want!