

## Building Speaking Skills

### Linking vowels

Read and listen to the excerpt from the transcript below. Pay attention to how the vowel sounds link together.

Margot	You know that's the <u>the</u> interesting thing about dress codes, is they're never really <u>outrageous</u> , they're just slightly <u>off</u> . So we see things like shorter skirts than you might like to <u>see</u> or clothes that you might wear <u>to</u> a yoga class sometimes shows up.	0:34
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When a word ends with a vowel sound and the next word starts with a vowel sound, we often link those sounds together. With some vowel sounds, we add a “y” sound to link them together.

For example:

<b>“I am”</b>	sounds like	<b>“I yam”</b>	<b>“see it”</b>	sounds like	<b>“see yit ”</b>
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**“today is”** sounds like **“today yis ”**

With other vowel sounds we add a “w” sound to link them together.

For example:

<b>“to all”</b>	sounds like	<b>“to wall”</b>	<b>“shoe in”</b>	sounds like	<b>“shoe win”</b>
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**“follow it ”** sounds like **“follow wit ”**

**Now look at the passage from the audio again. Write a Y or a W in the underlined spaces to show what the linking sound should be. Answers can be found in the appendix.**

Margot	You know that's the <u>  </u> interesting thing about dress codes, is they're never really <u>  </u> outrageous, they're just slightly <u>  </u> off. So we see things like shorter skirts than you might like to see <u>  </u> or clothes that you might wear <u>to</u> <u>  </u> a yoga class sometimes shows up.	0:34
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NOTE: Remember that linking occurs with vowel **sounds**. Spelling is not important. For example, “plate” ends with the vowel but the sound is a consonant.