



ENGLO PIONEERS ACADEMY

English Journey with Qesma Alaa

Your Fluency goal starts here



ASSIMILATION

A process by which the phonetic features of one sound are transferred to a neighboring sound. This term refers to the influence exercised by one sound segment upon the articulation of another, so that they become more alike or identical. The general effect of assimilation is to make pronunciation easier.

Examples: Assimilation Transference

Good man /gubmɪn/ /d//b/ before /m/

Good boy /gubboɪ/ /d//b/ before /b/

That cup /t kʌp/ /t/ /p/ before /b/

Types of assimilation in phonetics

There are different types of assimilation depending on which sounds are altered. A sound can either be influenced by the sound that comes before it or after it. The types are as follows:

❖ **Progressive (perseveratory assimilation or left-to-right assimilation).**

Definition of progressive assimilation

assimilation in which a preceding sound has an effect on a following one as in

❖ **Regressive (after) (anticipatory assimilation or right-to-left assimilation).**

Definition of regressive assimilation

Regressive assimilation is an assimilation in which the sound that undergoes the change (the target) comes earlier in the word than the trigger of assimilation, in other words the change operates backwards.

❖ **Coalescent (the whole sound)**

Definition of Coalescent assimilation

Coalescent assimilation (CA), where alveolar obstruent /t, d, s, z/ in word-final position merge with word-initial /j/ to produce post alveolar /tʃ, dʒ, ʃ, zʒ/, is one of the most well-known connected speech processes in English.

1- /t/ → /p/

/t/ (followed by /p/, /b/ or /m/) becomes /p/

- That person. | ðæp 'pɜ:sən |
- It boils. | ɪp 'bɔɪlz |
- That money. | ðæp 'mʌni |
- But, yeah, at that point I thought, “My God, I could be much more charming than Hugh!”
- There were sources that believed that they had a hand in Philip’s assassination.
- So, clearly, in a way, not much of a regular rythm there.

2- /t/ → /k/

/t/ (followed by /k/ or /g/) becomes /k/

- Is that clear? | ðæk 'klɪə |
- Put down that gun. | ðæk 'gʌn |
- He greets ticket collectors and stationmasters and they return his salute
- As ideas emerge, get going, start writing and a form will start becoming apparent to you.

3- /d/ → /b/

/d/ (followed by /p/, /b/ or /m/) becomes /b/

- ❖ It could be better. | kʊb bi 'betə |
- ❖ You could publish it. | kʊb 'pʌblɪʃ ɪt |
- ❖ She could modify it. | kʊb 'mɒdɪfaɪ ɪt |
- ❖ But, yeah, at that point I thought, “My God, I could be much more charming than Hugh!

4- /n/ → /m/

/n/ (followed by /p/, /b/ or /m/) becomes /m/

- Ten percent. | ten pə'sent |
- Ten boys. | ten 'bɔɪz |
- Better than me. | 'betə ðəm 'mi |
- Though I have, certainly on one book, gone back to writing the first draft entirely by hand



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ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR

6- / t / changes to / tʃ / before / j /

- ❖ Last year
- ❖ Meet you
- ❖ Hurt you
- ❖ Hit you

