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English In A Minute

The schwa



This is not a word-for-word transcript

Let's find out how to make your pronunciation more natural.

So in fast speech we don't pronounce every word equally. Fast words are often pronounced as this sound - **the schwa**.

It's a lazy sound like this **uh**. Here are some examples:

In natural speech grammar words like articles, prepositions can be reduced to a **schwa**.

A and **of** can become **ə**. **An** becomes **əm**. **To** becomes **tə**.

A cup of tea becomes **ə cup ə tea**.

Also the auxiliary **have** is often reduced to just **ə**.

Would have becomes **wouldə**, **should have** - **shouldə** and **could have** - **couldə**.

You should have told me, I would have helped.

And with **going to**, the **to** often becomes **ə** so we get **gənnə** and **want to** becomes **wənnə**.

So if you want to sound more natural you're going to have to use the schwa.