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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Tim's Pronunciation Workshop

### Catenation

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#### Tim

Hi. I'm Tim and this is my Pronunciation Workshop. Here, I'm going to show you how English is really spoken. Come on, let's go inside. Today, I'm going to tell you about perhaps the most common feature of fluent English pronunciation. And to help me, I'm going to use one of these. Now, I know you know what it is, but let's ask the people of London to describe it.

#### Voxpops

He's holding an egg.  
He's holding an egg.  
He's holding an egg.  
He's holding an egg.  
He's holding an egg.

#### Tim

An egg – that's two words, right? But, when we pronounce them, there's no gap in between them. It almost sounds like one word. Listen again.

#### Voxpops

He's holding an egg.  
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#### Tim

In fluent English, when one word ends in a consonant sound and the next word begins in a vowel sound, we link the two sounds together without a pause in between them. So, **an egg** becomes **anegg**. This is called catenation. Here are some more examples.

#### Examples

**He's in** the garden.

I used to **believe in** Father Christmas, but **not any** more.

I had to **give up** jogging.

He **had it** in his office.

#### Tim

Right, so you've heard the examples: you know the drill. Listen and repeat.

## Examples

**He's in** the garden.

I used to **believe in** Father Christmas, but **not any** more.

I had to **give up** jogging.

He **had it** in his office.

## Tim

Great work. Remember, if you want to learn more about pronunciation, then please visit our website, [bbclearningenglish.com](http://bbclearningenglish.com). And that is about it from the Pronunciation Workshop for now. I'll see you soon. Bye! Now I think I'm going to have this egg, for my lunch. It is a hard-boiled egg, isn't it?

## Voice

Oh yes Tim, yes, yes, it's definitely a hard-boiled egg.

## Tim

Great, looks good, Oh no no no no no! Ohhh, what a mess! Very funny.