
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Tim's Pronunciation Workshop

/d/ to /g/ assimilation



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. In English, we have an expression – man's best friend. Do you know what this refers to? No, not beer. Dogs. A dog is man's best friend. But not always. What would you say to a dog who did this?

Voxpops

Bad girl!

She's a bad girl!

The dog has been a bad girl!

Tim

Now, the word bad ends in the sound /d/, doesn't it? Or does it? Watch and listen again. Can you hear the /d/?

Voxpops

Bad girl!

She's a bad girl!

The dog has been a bad girl!

Tim

In fluent speech, a /d/ changes to a /g/ when it comes before /g/ or /k/. So 'bad girl' becomes 'bagirl'. This is an example of assimilation. Here are some more examples.

Examples

He's a really good cook.

Last night we had guests for dinner.

Can you print out a hard copy?

I'd love to walk down the red carpet one day.

Tim

Right, so you've heard some examples, now it's your turn. You know the drill: Listen and repeat.

Examples

He's a really good cook.

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I'd love to walk down the red carpet one day.

Tim

Well done. Now remember, if you want to learn more about pronunciation, then please visit our website, [bbclearningenglish dot com](http://bbclearningenglish.com). And that is about it from the pronunciation workshop for now. I'll see you soon. Bye! Now, you know what? I'm not really that keen on dogs, I'm more of a cat person. Oh no, no, no that was just a joke - good girl, good girl, aaah! Oh, very funny. You're actually quite cute. Who's a good girl? Who's a good girl? Argh! Bad girl!