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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Tim's Pronunciation Workshop

### Linking 'r'

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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. It'll help you become a better listener and a more fluent speaker. Come on, let's go inside.

Today, we're going to be talking about war. War... what is it good for? Well, as it turns out, it can be used to help illustrate a feature of fluent speech. As you can see, we write 'war' with three letters: w, a, and r, but when we pronounce it there are only two sounds: /w/ /ɔ:/. The 'r' in the spelling is not pronounced in the word itself, or if the next word begins with a consonant sound. But, have a listen to this. We went out and asked people in the streets of London to name a famous Russian book. This is what they said:

**Voxpops**

Err, the most famous Russian book I can think of is War and Peace.

War and Peace.

War and Peace.

War and Peace.

**Tim**

Simple, right? Everybody knows War and Peace.

**Voxpop**

I've never heard of the book War and Peace.

**Tim**

Well, almost everybody. But have another listen to the way they say it.

**Voxpops**

War and Peace.

War and Peace.

War and Peace.

War and Peace.

**Tim**

The word after 'war' begins with a vowel sound. And in this case, the 'r' is pronounced. War and Peace; War and Peace. This is called a 'linking r' and it helps to make the words flow together more smoothly in natural speech. Here are some more examples:

**Examples**

You know, I really like my mother-in-law.  
Have you been to the Tower of London?  
You've got something in your eye.  
Never again!

**Tim**

So, you've heard the examples, now it's your turn. Are you ready to give it a try? Listen and repeat.

**Examples**

You know, I really like my mother-in-law.  
Have you been to the Tower of London?  
You've got something in your eye.  
Never again!

**Tim**

How did you get on? Great. Remember, if you want to read more about this topic, please visit our website, [bbclearningenglish.com](http://bbclearningenglish.com). And that's everything from the pronunciation workshop this week. Now, I'm off to do some DIY. Bye.

Can somebody call for an ambulance? Please!