
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Tim's Pronunciation Workshop

/d/ to /j/ 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. How do you ask for help? And what is the connection between this... and this? Well, this is a piece of what? And what is the female version of this animal called? Put them together and what do you get? Well, here's how some people in London ask for help.

Voxpops

Would you do me a favour?
Would you do me a favour?

Tim

Wood. Ewe. Would you – get it? Now, the words 'ewe' and 'you' have the same pronunciation, don't they? But what happens to the word 'you' when it comes after the sound /d/? Watch and listen again

Voxpops

Would **you** do me a favour?
Would **you** do me a favour?

Tim

In fluent speech when one word ends in a /d/ sound and the next word begins in a /j/ sound, the two sounds come together and change to a /dʒ/ sound. You also might have noticed that the /u:/ in 'you' can change to schwa. So 'would you' becomes 'would **you**', or even 'would **ya**' This is an example of assimilation. Here are some more examples.

Examples

I'm sad **you** decided to quit.
Could **you** get here by midnight?
Should **you** see him, can you give him a message?
I don't think the gold **you** bought was real.

Tim

Right, so you've heard the examples. What do we do? Listen and repeat.

Examples

I'm sad **you** decided to quit.

Could **you** get here by midnight?

Should **you** see him, can you give him a message?

I don't think the gold **you** bought was real.

Tim

Well done. And remember, if you want to learn more about pronunciation, then please visit our website, bbclearningenglish.com. And that is about it from the pronunciation workshop for this week. I'll see you soon. Bye bye! Right, now, what am I going to do with you? Ha ha – what am I going to do with 'ewe', get it? Oh come on, would you give a guy a break?! She gets it.