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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Tim's Pronunciation Workshop

### /d/ - /b/ assimilation

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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. Now, do you know the word speed? No, of course not because it's not a real word. Or is it? Listen to some people in London talking about this.

#### Voxpops

It's a speed boat.  
Speed boat.  
Speed boat.  
Speed boat.  
Speed boat.

#### Tim

Now, the word speed ends in the sound /d/, doesn't it? Well not always. Watch and listen again, what sound can you actually hear?

#### Voxpops

It's a spee? boat.  
Spee? boat.  
Spee? boat.  
Spee? boat.  
Spee? boat.

#### Tim

In everyday speech, when we're speaking fluently, if one word ends in a **vowel** sound followed by a /d/ and the next begins in a /b/, then the /d/ changes to a /b/ and then merges with the /b/ from the following word. So 'speed boat', becomes 'speebbboat'. Watch again, this time in slow motion. Look at the mouth shape. Can you see /d/ or is it just /b/?

#### Voxpops

Speeb boat.  
Speeb boat.  
Speeb boat.  
Speeb boat.  
Speeb boat.

### Tim

This is another case of assimilation.  
Here are some more examples.

### Examples

My son is a really good **boy**.  
I'm sorry if I was **rude** before.  
My car had to be towed **back** to the garage.  
You should **buy** him a present.

### Tim

So, you've heard the examples, and now it's your turn. You know the drill. Listen and repeat.

### Examples

My son is a really good **boy**.  
I'm sorry if I was **rude** before.  
My car had to be towed **back** to the garage.  
You should **buy** him a present.

### Tim

Well done. And 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 this week. I'll see you soon. Bye bye! Aah – you know, one day I'm going to get one of these. Not a toy, obviously, but the real thing. My dad promised. He said if I was a good boy, he'd buy me a boat. That was quite a long time ago actually. I think I was five years old – and I have been a good boy. Maybe he's just forgotten. I'm never going to get my speed boat, am I?