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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Tim's Pronunciation Workshop

### Gemination /s/

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**Tim**

Hi, I'm Tim and this is my pronunciation workshop. Here I'm gonna 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.

Now, do you know my star sign? Of course you don't, I don't even know my star sign. I don't believe in any of that rubbish. But I know someone who does. Say hello to my twin, Tom.

**Tom**

Hi.

**Tim**

Hi Tom.

**Tom**

Oh, hi Tim.

**Tim**

So, Tom, what's our star sign?

**Tom**

I don't know what yours is Tim, but I'm a Gemini.

**Tim**

Thanks Tom, you can go now.

**Tom**

You're welcome. Bye.

**Tim**

You know when I think of Tom, and the fact that I got the brains and the good looks, it makes me feel a bit like this. Oh, I've got an idea. I can use this to help with this week's topic. Let's ask the people of London what they think of this photo.

### **Voxpops**

That man looks sad.  
He looks sad.  
He looks sad.  
He looks sad.  
He looks sad.  
He looks sad.  
He looks sad.

### **Tim**

How many 's's are there in the words 'he looks sad'? Two, right? But how many can you hear? Watch again.

### **Voxpops**

That man looks sad.  
He looks sad.  
He looks sad.  
He looks sad.  
He looks sad.  
He looks sad.

### **Tim**

When one word ends in a /s/ sound and the next word begins in /s/, we don't pronounce both sounds, nor do we pronounce just one sound. Instead they come together to make a slightly longer /s/ sound. So, **he looks sad** becomes **he lookssad**. This is called 'twinning' or gemination. It helps the words to flow smoothly from one to the other in everyday speech. Here are some more examples:

### **Voxpops**

She's silly.  
He's sitting over there.  
Can you come this Saturday?  
That's so unfair!

### **Tim**

Right, so you've heard some examples, now it's your turn. Are you ready to start? Listen and repeat.

### **Examples**

She's silly.  
He's sitting over there.  
Can you come this Saturday?  
That's so unfair!

**Tim**

So how did you get on? Great. Remember, you can always read more about this topic on our website, [bbclearningenglish.com](http://bbclearningenglish.com). That's all from the workshop for now. See you next week. Bye bye.

**Tom**

Oh, Tim, I've got it! If I'm Gemini and you're my twin, then you must be Virgo!

**Tim**

He really is stupid.