

Transcript Video

What have we discovered so far then?

We have to block OUT redundant words and phrases and we have to ignore the non-logical pattern of spoken English. Ok!

What else do you have to train your ear to do?

Well, we have to think about connected speech. Connected speech is when we push our words together - it's when we speak in a lazy informal way - it's a relaxed English, if you like, and we use when we are speaking with friends and in informal situations generally.

Let's look at a simple example: *Do you like football?* This is how I'd say it in the classroom, or if I'm work with people I don't know that well, or in some kind of formal context, let's say. But naturally, or informally I'd say: Ji like football? Ji like football? What I've done there is push together -do -you - like. I've pushed together these words and this is known the 'schwa' in English - the uh sound - which is probably the most common sound in English. And we get this sound when our mouth is relaxed - you can even say this sound without even moving your lips.

We don't want to that! Just to be clear!

So when I'm speaking to my friend and we are in a real relaxed conversation, some words can practically disappear - I might say Ja like football? JI! Where di live? Where do you live?

So close together that the beginning becomes a JA. Ja alone - is pretty much unrecognisable.

And this is where the next part of the lesson comes in - and that's listening for key words.

So JA, alone.... What does it mean? Nothing! But Ja like football? You hear football - and because you are an advanced learner you can pick out the word *Like* - so instinctively you know I'm asking you: Do you like football?

Obviously, do you like football.... Where do you live? are very basic examples, but it's just to illustrate the point. The more you listen to natural English, the more you have native speaking friends, you'll start to hear this and recognise what it is. And this makes it less frustrating, because it's not that you're not understanding new strange words, it's just a form of lazy speaking. You know I always say to my students - learning English is something for the long term - it's a journey and it's something like anything that gets better the more you practise and if you practise listening it will get easier for you I promise.

So, let's come back to listening for keywords. We're going to ease into this practice with the last section of Bobby Charlton's story. You are literally going to fill in the gaps with the missing words. Obviously the words that are missing are key to understanding the story. Listen as many times as you need. And then you can check your answers.

The next lesson we're going to do the same thing, but with a more difficult clip. And it is hard. In fact there are three words there that even I can't understand - The presenter has a cockney accent which is East of London - as I say there are three words I really can't make out. But they aren't important to the meaning, so we don't care. I'm not going to lose sleep over the fact that I can't understand three words.

To recap, we are blocking out redundant words, murmurs, expressions, We're ignoring repetition or illogical patterns, we are not going to focus on connected speech - the schwa- but we ARE focusing on key and important words that will help you get the gist.

Good luck!