Talk a Lot

Focus on Connected Speech

Weak Forms – Complete the Table

Notes:
- The weak forms of many function words are commonly used in **spoken English** instead of strong forms (in Standard Pronunciation, dialects, and accents).
- All words that have weak forms usually act as function words.
- All words that have weak forms have only one syllable – they are monosyllabic (apart from "any").
- Most of the weak forms use the vowel sound **schwa** /ə/.
- If we use strong forms when we should use weak, we sound overly **formal** and it's harder for people to understand us, because the sentence stress is incorrect (see p.12.1). Communication is reduced.
- If a function word comes at the end of a sentence we usually use its strong form, e.g. "What are you looking <u>for</u>?" /fɔː/ or, "Who are you writing <u>to</u>?" /tuː/
- If we want to show emphasis or contrast, we can vary intonation by using strong forms where we would normally use weak forms, e.g. "Where've you <u>been</u> all day?" /biːn/

articles & determiners

	weak	strong
a		
an		
any		
some		
such		
the		

be & auxiliary verbs

	weak	strong
am		
are		
be		
been		
is		
was		
were		
do		
does		
had		
has		
have		
can		
could		
must		
shall		
should		
would		

conjunctions

	weak	strong
and		
but		
than		
that		

prepositions

	weak	strong
as		
at		
for		
from		
of		
to		

pronouns

	weak	strong
he		
her		
him		
his		
me		
she		
them		
their		
us		
we		
you		
your		