

Talk a Lot Free Spoken English Course – 17th July 2009
Sentence Stress & Connected Speech (Lesson 2) – Notes

Part 1: Sentence Stress

1. Choose a sentence:

We've cancelled our flight because our daughter is ill.

2. Underline the content words:

We've cancelled our flight because our daughter is ill.

3. Draw a box around the stressed syllable in each content word:

We've cancelled our flight because our daughter is ill.

4. Write the vowel sound for each stressed syllable:

/æ/ /aɪ/ /ɔː/ /ɪ/

We've cancelled our flight because our daughter is ill.

This is the “**sound spine**” of the sentence – the most important sounds.

5. Find any weak forms in the function words:

/æ/ /aɪ/ /ɔɪ/ /ɪ/

We've cancelled our flight because our daughter is ill.







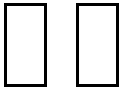

Next, we have to connect these stressed sounds together.

Part 2: Connected Speech

1. Draw boxes to show the sound at the beginning and the end of each word. Draw a white box for a vowel sound, and a black box for a consonant sound. (Don't worry about the sound at the beginning of the first word, or at the end of the last word.)

We've cancelled our flight because our daughter is ill.

Identify how the words connect together: (vc), (cv), (vv), and (cc). Are the connections easy to say quickly?







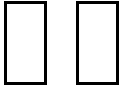

We've  cancelled  our  flight  because  our  daughter  is  ill.

(cc) (cv) (vc) (cc) (cv) (vc) (vv) (cv)

(vc) OK!
(cv) OK!

(vv) :(
(cc) :(

2. Use connected speech techniques to make the difficult connections easier:

We've  cancelled  our  flight  because  our  daughter  is  ill.

(cc) (cv) (vc) (cc) (cv) (vc) (vv) (cv)

elision OK OK elision / g.stops OK OK contraction OK

~~/v/~~ ~~/t/~~ *daughter's*

3. Put together both pieces of work:

	/æ/			/aɪ/			/ɔɪ/			/ɪ/														
We've	█	█	cancelled	█	□	our	□	█	flight	█	█	because	█	□	our	□	█	daughter	□	□	is	█	□	ill.
	(cc)			(cv)			(vc)		(cc)			(cv)			(vc)		(vv)			(cv)				
	elision			OK			OK		elision / g.stops			OK			OK		contraction			OK				
	-v/								-t/								daughter's							

Sentence Blocks:

Why

What

Further study: <https://purlandtraining.com>

- Talk a Lot Handbook
- Connected Speech Templates
- Connected Sentence Cards