

Espresso English #176 Practice

Practice using the expressions you learned from the podcast:

might as well

just my luck

quite a few

quite a bit

1. I always carry my umbrella in my backpack, but today is the one day I forgot it, and _____, it's raining cats and dogs today!
2. Rina: Dina, can you recommend some places for me to travel in Indonesia?

Dina: Yes, of course! There are _____ beautiful places you should check out! I can narrow it down and make you a list of five places you must go!
3. I don't like American football, but my friend gave me a free ticket to the first game, so _____ go.
4. On the first day of class, I got _____ information from all my professors. I hope I don't forget anything important!
5. I was really looking forward to having an American roommate this semester so that I could practice my English with her every day, but _____, I was assigned to a single room!
6. The Missoula airport is a little strange. The first thing I noticed was that there were _____ taxidermy animals around the baggage claim. There's even a taxidermy mountain goat being attacked by a taxidermy mountain lion!
7. Last night I set my alarm for 6:15; this morning, when I woke up at 6:08, I thought, "There's no use in trying to go back to sleep for just 7 minutes. I _____ get up!"
8. I saw on the syllabus for my communication class that I have a huge research project due at the end of the semester - I have to write a 20-page essay and give a 30-minute presentation to my class. If I want to do a good job on this, I am going to have to do _____ research and spend _____ time in the library.

Watch the Rachel's English video, "Intro to Linking," and answer the questions below.

1. Throughout this video, Rachel uses the word "choppy" to describe speech that is not linked. Based on the comments that she makes, how would you define "choppy" speech? (What is "choppy" speech? What is the opposite of "choppy" speech?)

2. How can you avoid choppy speech?

3. What is reduction (or reducing a sound)?

4. Why does Rachel think that linking and reduction are related?

5. Repeat Rachel's sentences, "He told her to go to the park today" and "I can be there by three." Try to imitate Rachel exactly, including linking and reduction. Consider the following questions (no need to write an answer): When you link the sounds here, does it feel "sloppy" or strange to you? Do you use linking and reduction similarly in your native language?

A Few Rules for Linking:

#1: When the same consonant sound occurs at the end of one word, and the beginning of the next word, the sound is not repeated. (Except for in the ch and j sounds.)

- She was late because she had a flat tire.
- Would you get a few ripe pears from the supermarket?
- A: My grandmother gave me a hundred dollars for my birthday!
B: Wow! That's a big gift!

#2: When a consonant sound ends one word, and a vowel sound begins the next word, the consonant sound is linked to the vowel sound. (What's up?)

- Give up → gi-vup Please don't give up yet!
- The mall → them-all I saw her at the mall.
- Work out → wor-kout I need to work out today!

#3: When a d sound ends one word, and a y sound begins the next word, they link to make a j sound.

- Did you know that? Didju know that?

When a t sound ends one word, and a y sound begins the next word, they link to make a ch sound.

Don't you want this?

Dontchu want this?

Practice pronouncing the following sentences:

1. I made your lunch. (I major lunch.)
2. They played dy your favorite song.
3. I'll find dy you later.
4. He owed dy you money.
5. Couldn't ty you do it?
6. He's not ty young anymore.