
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Tim's Pronunciation Workshop

Assimilation of /t/ and /k/



Tim

Hi. I'm Tim and this is my Pronunciation workshop. Here I'm going to show you how English is really spoken. Come on, let's go inside. Now, these days, when you go to a real shop do you prefer to pay by cash or by plastic? What do we call one of these? Now, I'm sure you already know, but let's hear what the people of London call it.

Voxpops

It's a credit card.
Credit card.
Credit card.
Credit card.
Credit card.

Tim

A credit card. Now, the word credit ends in the sound /t/, doesn't it? Or does it? Watch and listen again. What sound can you actually hear?

Voxpops

It's a credit **card**.
Credit **card**.
Credit **card**.
Credit **card**.
Credit **card**.

Tim

In fluent speech, when one word ends in a **vowel sound** followed by a /t/ and the next word **begins with a /k/**, the /t/ **changes to a /k/**. So /kredIt kɑ:d/ becomes /kredIk kɑ:d/. It's an example of assimilation. And here are some more examples.

Examples

Don't let it get **cold**!
You have to do it **quickly**.
There's no **short cut** to learning a language.
I didn't like that **cake**.

Tim

Right, so you've heard the examples, and now it's your turn. You know the drill. Listen and repeat.

Examples

Don't let it get **cold**!

You have to do it **quickly**.

There's no **short cut** to learning a language.

I didn't like that **cake**.

Tim

Well done. Now, remember, if you want to learn more about pronunciation, then please visit our website, bbclearningenglish.com. And that is about it from the pronunciation workshop for this week. I'll see you soon. Bye bye! Now, to be honest, I don't really use cash or card these days. I don't need them. No. If you want to maintain your street cred, then the only way is pay by phone. Erm. Have you got a charger?