

Common Reduced Forms in American English

1. Going to is pronounced **GONNA** when it is used to show the future. But it is never reduced when it means going from one place to another.

We're going to grab a bite to eat. = We're **gonna** grab a bite to eat.
I'm going to the office tonight. = I'm going to the office tonight.

2. Want to and **want a** are both pronounced **WANNA** and **wants to** is pronounced **WANSTA**. **Do you want to** can also be reduced to **WANNA**.

I want to go for a spin. = I **wanna** go for a spin.
Do you want a piece of cake? = **Wanna** piece of cake?
He wants to avoid rush hour. = He **wansta** avoid rush hour.

3. Have to is pronounced **HAFTA** and **has to** is pronounced **HASTA**.

Sorry, I have to leave now. = Sorry, I **hafta** leave now.
She has to go to work soon. = She **hasta** go to work soon.

4. Have reduces to **AV** or **A** in positive and negative phrases.

must have = must'av or must'a	must not have = mustn'av or mustn'a
would have = would'av or would'a	would not have = wouldn'av or wouldn'a
could have = could'av or could'a	could not have = couldn'av or couldn'a
should have = should'av or should'a	should not have = shouldn'av or shouldn'a

5. You is almost always pronounced **YA**, **you're** and **your** are pronounced **YER**, and **yours** is pronounced **YERS**.

Do you feel under the weather? = Do **ya** feel under the weather?
You're completely right. = **Yer** completely right.
Your brother will be fine. = **Yer** brother will be fine.
Is this book yours? = Is this book **yers**?

6. To is pronounced **TA** after voiceless sounds and **DA** after voiced sounds.

She wants to invite us to the party. = She wants **ta** invite us **ta** the party.
I need to go to bed now. = I need **da** go **da** bed now.

7. And and **in** both reduce to **N**.

Karen and Steve are coming to visit. = Karen 'n Steve are coming to visit.
Tim is in Paris this week. = Tom is 'n Paris this week.

9. D + Y = J

did you = did'ju or did'ja
would you = would'ju or would'ja
could you = could'ju or could'ja
should you = should'ju or should'ja

T + Y = CH

let you = let'chu or let'cha
what you = what'chu or what'cha
don't you = don'chu or don'cha
didn't you = didn'chu or didn'cha

10. T is pronounced as D when it is between two vowels.

That's a great idea. = That's a **gread** idea.
What a great car! = What a **gread** car.

T is not pronounced when it is between **N** and **E**.

center = cen'er
counted = coun'ed

11. The past tense form -ED is pronounced T after voiceless sounds, D after voiced sounds, and ID after T and D.

T	D	ID
talked	played	decided
dressed	ordered	wanted
wished	happened	needed

Similarly, the plural form -S is pronounced **S** after voiceless sounds, **Z** after voiced sounds, and **IZ** after S, Z, SH, and CH.

S	Z	IZ
desks	sisters	horses
cats	legs	peaches
tops	eyes	offices

12. The h sound in the pronouns he, him, his, and her and the th sound in them are not pronounced in fast speech when they are unstressed; however, they are pronounced when they are stressed.

I think he flunked bio class. = I think 'e flunked bio class.
I told him to study more. = I told 'im to study more.
He got an A on his final. = He got an A on 'is final.
She thinks her teacher is crazy. = She thinks 'er teacher is crazy.
Pop quizzes... I hate them! = Pop quizzes... I hate 'em