

## POSITIONAL VARIATION

### Initial stop consonants (p,b,t,d,k,g)

Compare: pill                      bill  
                  time                      dime  
                  cage                      gauge

*Initial voiceless stops are ASPIRATED*  
*(symbol = C<sup>h</sup>)*

### Medial voiceless stops (p, t, k)

paper      upper/appear      apple/apply  
tutor      attic/attack      critic/critique  
cooking    decade/decayed    bacon/become

*At the beginning of a stressed syllable,*  
*medial voiceless stops are also aspirated*

**Medial /nt/ before an unstressed syllable =**  
**"disappearing /t/"**

in(t)ernational  
San(t)a Claus  
quan(t)ity

en(t)ertainment  
Win(t)er Quarter  
twen(t)y-three

**Medial /h/ also tends to disappear before**  
**unstressed syllables**

inhibit  
historic  
vehicular

in(h)ibition  
pre(h)istoric  
ve(h)icle  
vé(h)emently

**Special Case of a medial // and /n/**

$\left. \begin{array}{l} /t/ \\ /d/ \\ /n/ \end{array} \right\} + \text{unstressed syllable with } \left\{ \begin{array}{l} // \\ /n/ \end{array} \right. = \text{SYLLABIC } [\eta, \imath]$

**syllabic [ŋ]**

**syllabic [l]**

**glottalized /t/:**  
important  
certainly  
sentence

little  
bottle  
riddle  
tunnel

**nasal release on /d/:**  
sudden  
wouldn't  
bread and butter

metal/medal/meddle

## Final Consonants

Compare:        bus        buzz

How are they different?

- voiceless/voiced final consonant
- vowel length (symbol = V:)

- for fricatives & affricates:  
length/strength of release

seyf                    sey:v

pleys                    pley:z

tiyθ                    tiy:ð

rɪtʃ                    rɪ:dʒ

- for stops:

voiced & voiceless UNRELEASED (symbol = C°)

læk°                    læ:g°

rɪp°                    rɪ:b°

dɛt°                    dɛ:d°

Special case: Medial /t/

The NAE flap /ɾ /

Listen:

water      butter      pretty

Compare:

forty                      fourteen

atom                      atomic

matter                      master

What's the difference between the medial /t/ in the two columns?

**RULE--**What two conditions must be met for a flap to occur?

1. between voiced sounds

2. ~~at the beginning of an~~  
unstressed syllable

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