

37

Hey, wait for me!

Strong and weak forms 1: Pronouns

A

Some words have two different pronunciations – a strong form and a weak form. Normally we use the weak form, but if the word is stressed because it is especially important, or because we want to show a contrast, we use the strong form. Most pronouns have strong and weak forms.

	weak	strong
you	/jə/	/ju:/
me	/mɪ/	/mi:/
he	/ɪ/	/hi:/
she	/ʃɪ/	/ʃi:/
him	/ɪm/	/hɪm/
her	/ə/ or /hə/*	/hɜ:/*
we	/wi/	/wi:/
us	/əs/	/ʌs/
them	/ðəm/	/ðem/

* The r at the end of *her* is pronounced before a vowel (see Unit 22).
 Give her_a chance.

B



Listen to the difference, and repeat.

A: Will you be at the meeting on Friday? (you is weak)

B: Yes. Will you be there? (you is strong)

Can you help me carry this suitcase? (me is weak)

Hey, wait for me! (me is strong)

A: Is he there? (he is weak)

B: Who?

A: The boss.

B: No. Everybody else is working, but he's gone home!
 (he is strong)

A: She doesn't smoke or drink! (she is strong)

B: Ah, that's what she told you! (she is weak)

A: Look – it's him! (him is strong)

B: Where? I can't see him. (him is weak)

A: Do you know that woman?

B: Her? No, I don't recognise her. (first her is strong,
 second her is weak)

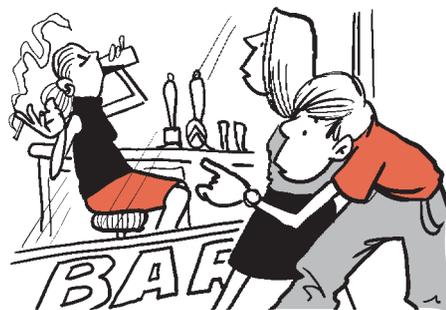
A: I'm afraid we can't stay any longer. (we is weak)

B: What do you mean, 'we'? I've got plenty of time.
 (we is strong)

A: They told us to go this way. (us is weak)

B: Well, they didn't tell us! (us is strong)

When I said, 'Give them a drink' I didn't mean them,
 I meant the people. (first them is weak, second them
 is strong)



She doesn't smoke or drink.



They told us to go this way.



When I said, 'Give them a drink', I didn't mean them, I meant the people.

Exercises

37.1 Listen and mark the underlined words *w* (weak) or *s* (strong).

C51

- 1 A: Are you going to talk to him? B: No, I think he should talk to me first.
- 2 A: Shall I phone her? B: Yes, I think you should.
- 3 A: You see those people over there? Do you know them? B: I know her, but I don't know him.
- 4 A: What are you going to give him? B: I think I'll give him a shirt. What about you?
- 5 Let him come in and ask him what he wants.
- 6 She says she'll bring her money tomorrow.
- 7 I'm tired ... shall we go now?
- 8 Everybody's leaving. What about us? Shall we go, too?
- 9 Tell us when you're ready.
- 10 A: Who broke that window? B: He did! C: No, I didn't, she did!

Check with the Key. Then listen again and repeat.

37.2 Listen and complete the sentences.

C52

EXAMPLE

What *did she* say?

- 1 What think about it?
- 2 Where tonight?
- 3 ready now.
- 4 Where?
- 5 come in.
- 6 feeling all right?
- 7 Tell
- 8 I phone number but not

Check with the Key. Then listen again and repeat.

37.3 Listen and repeat this poem. Be careful to speak with the correct rhythm. Stress the words in **bold**, and use weak forms of the pronouns between them.

C53

Comings and goings

Don't	What	did she	say?
	send	her	away
	Give	her a	chance
	Ask	her to	dance
	Give	us a	drink
	What	do you	think?
	Ask	them to	wait
	Tell	them it's	late
	What	shall we	do?
Shall we	wait	here for	you?
	Please	don't	delay
Tell me,	what	do you	say?

