How to Make Yourself Understood

English I　Online Materials

Tips for English Speech Sounds
Unit 4
Beware of Sound Change – Part 2

キーワード（key words）

　　　鼻音の二重化（nasal doubling）　　鼻母音置き換え（nasal replacement）

　　　鼻音共有（nasal sharing）　　開音節言語（open-syllable language）

　　　閉音節言語（closed-syllable language）　　子音脱落（consonant drop）

Tips for English Speech Sounds

Unit 4　Beware of Sound Change – Part 2

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Scripts and Annotations
（スクリプトと解説）

Further Tips

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Scripts and Annotations（スクリプトと解説）

Hello everyone. I'm Chuck Brown. I'm from Columbus, Ohio, in the United States, and I've been teaching at Hokkaido University since 2013. In Unit 3, we learned a few important sound change patterns in English. In Unit 4, today, we are going to learn some more sound change patterns that are challenging especially for native speakers of Japanese; that is, variation of nasal "N" sound, sound linkage (or liaison), and consonant drop. Let's start by considering the following Japanese examples.

Warming Up Quiz:「N」Variation in Japanese

This is おう（応）, and this is はん（反）. Now, notice, however, that if we combine these two words, something very interesting happens. How do you pronounce this?

反（はん）　応（おう）

You do not pronounce this as はん おう. Rather, it is pronounced as はんのう（反応）. Right? Somehow an extra "N" sound is added. Let's look at some more examples of the same pattern.

観（かん）　音（おん）
山（さん）　王（おう）

This is not かん おん, but かんのん（観音）. Likewise, you do not usually pronounce this as さん おう; rather, さんのう（山王）. You see? In Japanese, when the first word ends with "N" sound and the next word starts with a vowel, あ、い、う、え、or　お, then sometimes, an extra N sound is added before the vowel. Let's call this rule "nasal doubling", which can be observed in words such as 反応、観音、山王, as we've just seen.

There is another pattern frequently observed in Japanese, when N and a vowel get together. Consider the following example.

全（ぜん）　員（いん）

In very careful speech, this word is pronounced as ぜんいん（全員）, which is the dictionary form. However, in casual speech, the middle N is replaced by a nasalized vowel [ẽ]. So many Japanese actually pronounce this as ぜーいん, as in 全員集合（ぜーいんしゅーごー）. This new vowel is slightly nasalized, which means that part of the air from your lungs goes through your nose when you pronounce this sound. The same pattern is quite frequently found.

半（はん）　音（おん）

For instance, in casual daily conversations, はんおん is often pronounced as [h a ã o N] (はーおん), with the N sound replaced by a nasal vowel [ã], as in 半音階.

恋（れん）　愛（あい）

Likewise, れんあい, is pronounced, in casual speech, as [r e ẽ a i] (れーあい), with the N sound replaced by a nasal vowel [ẽ]; れーあい、れーあい.

Let's call this strategy Nasal Vowel Replacement. The "N" sound in the dictionary form is replaced by a nasalized vowel.

Let's wrap up the points so far. In Japanese when the "N" sound is followed by a vowel sound, such as お, it may be realized as the accurate dictionary form in very careful speech, like はんおん.
In casual speech, on the other hand, this "N" sound is often replaced by a nasal vowel, and the word is pronounced as はーおん [h a ã on]. In the same context of the "N‐vowel sequence," such as はん おう, it is sometimes the case that the nasal doubling is obligatory, and the word always turns out to be はん のう. In other words, the "N" doubling form here becomes a dictionary form in examples like はんのう, かんのん, さんのう, and so on.

Points	────────────────────

・日本語の音韻：「〜n」＋母音の場合

    ➔ パターン１：[n]音が追加される「**鼻音の二重化（nasal doubling)**」

        はん（反）＋ おう（応）　　➔ はん のう（反応）

        h a N　　　ou　　　　　h a N **N** o u

            その他の例：観音 [k a N **N** o N]、山王 [s a N **N** o u]

    ➔ パターン２：[n]が鼻母音に置き換わる「**鼻母音置き換え（nasal replacement)**」

        ぜん いん（全員）　　　　　➔ ぜ〜いん（全員）

        z e N　i N　　　　　z e **ẽ** i N

            その他の例：　　**半音** [h a N o N] ➔ **は〜おん** [h a **ã** o N]

                        恋愛 [r e N a i] ➔ **れ〜あい** [r e **ẽ** a i]

・パターン１は辞書形になっており、丁寧な発話でも、くだけた会話でも二重の鼻音があらわれる
                （＊固有名詞的なので、「かんおん」「さんおう」発音される地域もあり）

・パターン２は丁寧な発話では、鼻母音置き換えが起こらず、辞書形どおりに発音されるが、日常会話では多くの場合、鼻母音置き換えが起こっている　➔ 多くの日本語母語話者が無意識のうちに従っている音韻規則

… N + Vowel in English

OK? These are instances of sound change rules that most Japanese speakers unconsciously follow. Now, bearing this in mind, let's consider what happens in English, when the nasal "n" sound is followed by a vowel. Look at the following example.

run + er

When the word *run* is followed by *–er*, neither of the Japanese nasal rules applies. Don't be trapped by the spelling! Although an extra "N" is added here in the English writing system, in terms of speech sound, we have only one N sound here. Therefore, it is NOT pronounced as ランナー ("*raŋ+Na−*") with double N. It is just *runner* [rʌnər] with a single "N" sound. *Runner* [rʌnər]. This "N" sound is originally the Coda (or the last sound) of the syllable *run*, but it is pronounced, at the same time, as if it is also the Onset (or the first sound) of the following syllable *–er*. Let's call this "nasal sharing."

Now here is a tip for English pronunciation, especially for Japanese students. When you pronounce an "N plus vowel" sequence in English, do not use the Japanese rule Nasal Doubling. Rather, try to use the English rule "nasal sharing". OK. Let's practice a bit.

thinner

This is *thinner* [θinər]. Don't pronounce this as シンナー ["θiŋ+Na−"], which is a typical Japanese mistake. *Thinner* [θinər].

Points	─────────────────────

・英語の音韻：「〜n」＋母音の場合

   ➔ 鼻音が前の音節の最後の音であると同時に、後ろの音節の最初の音にもなる：
　「**鼻音共有（nasal sharing）**」

     runner
　　　[rʌnər]: [n]は[rʌn]の最後の音であると同時に、[nər]の最初の音
　　　　　　　➔ [n]音はあくまでも１つ

   ➔ 典型的な日本人式発音：上記の日本語音韻規則パターン１「鼻音の二重化」を持ち込んでしまう
　　　✖ **ランナー** [raŋna−]　◎ [rʌnər]「ラナ」に近い音
　　　✖ **ハンマー** [hamma−]　◎ [hæmər]「ハマ」に近い音
　　　✖ **シンナー** [θiŋna−]　◎ [θinər]

Next, *turn in* [tərnin]. Try NOT to say these two words separately like "turn 'in". Try to link the N sound in *turn* with the following word *in*. It's good if you hear some [ni] sound. *Turn in* [tərnin].

Next, *open-air* [oupnɛər]. Again, don't say these two words separately like "open 'air". The final N in *open* sounds as if it is also the first sound of *air*. So again, it is good if you hear something like [nɛ] sound, like *open-air* [oupnɛər]. Well then, how do you pronounce this in natural speed English?

> **burn out**

Yeah! It is *burn out* [bərnaut]. Do you hear some [na] like sound in the middle of the phrase? It is NOT "burn 'out". Rather, *burn out* [bərnaut].

Points	─────────────────────

・英語の音韻：「〜n」＋母音の場合

    turn in：turn の[n]が in の[i]の最初の音のようになるので、[ni]のような音が出る

        ×　ターンイン　　　◎ [tərnin]　　（「ターニン」に近い音)

    open-air：open の[n]が air の[ɛ]の最初の音に。[nɛ]のような音が出る

        ×　オープンエア　　　◎ [oupnɛə]　　（「オープンネァ」に近い音)

    burn out：burn の[n]が out の[a]の最初の音に。[an]のような音が出る

        ×　バーンアウト　　　◎ [bərnaut]　　（「バーナウ(ッ)」に近い音)

        ──

… C + Vowel in English

Now, this sound pattern is actually more general in English. When a word ends with a consonant even other than nasal "n", it's combined together with the following vowel, and pronounced as if it is the first sound of the second word. Let's look at some examples.

> **break‿up**
>   [kʌ]

Here, the last [k] sound of *break* is linked to the first vowel of *up*, and thus the phrase sounds like *break up*.

> **big‿apple**
> [gæ]

Similarly, in *big* + *apple*, the [g] sound is linked to the [æ] sound of *apple*. So, *big apple*. One more example.

heads or tails
　　　⌣
　　[zə]

Here, the last sound [z] in *heads* is linked to the [ɔː] sound of *or*, and thus you may hear a [zə] like sound in the middle of the phrase. *heads or tails.*

Points　——————————————————

・英語の音韻：もっと一般的に、子音＋母音の場合

　　　break up：break の[k]が up の[ʌ]の最初の音のようになるので、[kʌ]のような音が出る
　　　　　　✕　ブレイクアップ　　　◎　[breikʌp]　　　（「ブレィカッ」に近い音）

　　　big apple：big の[g]が apple の[æ]の最初の音に。[**gæ**]のような音が出る
　　　　　　✕　ビッグアップル　　　◎　[bi**gæ**pl]　　　（「ビガプゥ」に近い音）

　　　heads or tails：heads の[z]が or の[ɔː]の最初の音に。[zə]のような音が出る
　　　　　　✕　ヘッズオアテイルズ　　◎　[hɛd**zə**teilz]　　（「ヘゾティルズ」に近い音）

　　　類例：ge**t o**ut, ge**t o**n, ge**t i**n, ki**ck o**ff, ta**ke o**ut, su**m u**p,

　　　　　　　　　　　　　——————————————————————————————

Consonant Drop in English

Good! It's interesting, isn't it? We've seen that in Japanese, sometimes, an extra consonant N is inserted in examples, like han-nou (反応) or kan-non (観音). In English, however, quite the opposite may happen very frequently. That is, when the identical consonants appear next to each other in casual speech, the sequence is pronounced as if there is only one sound there. For example, this is *big* + *'game* in very careful speech, but in casual daily conversations, it is actually pronounced as *bi(g)game*, as if there is only one [g] sound. *bi(g)game*. Next, t*ake* + *'care* is quite often pronounced as *ta(ke) care*. And, *first* + *'time* will be pronounced as *firs(t) time* in casual speech as if there is only one [t] sound there. *Firs(t) time*.

OK? Now, the English sound change system goes still further. Even when the two adjacent consonants are NOT exactly the same, one of these consonants is often dropped in casual speech. Sometimes, the first consonant becomes very weak and is dropped eventually. For example, *good* + *'bye* becomes *goo(d)-bye*. Or, *back* + *'door* turns out to be *ba(ck)-door*. On the other hand, the second of these adjacent consonants may be sometimes deleted. For instance,

I like them

I like them becomes *I like'em.*

Did you call her?

Similarly, *Did you call her?* is pronounced in causal speech as *Did you call'er?* by dropping the [h] sound in *her. Did you call'er?*

Points	───────────────────

・日本語では、子音[n]が増えることがあった　　　　haN + ou ➔ haN Nou　（鼻音の二重化）

英語の**子音脱落**（Consonant drop）

・英語では同じ子音が並ぶと、一方か消える場合あり

big game	× ビッグゲーム	◎ [bi(g)geim]	（「ビゲイ(ム)」に近い音）
take care	× テイクケア	◎ [tei(k)kɛə]	（「ティケァ」に近い音）
first time	× ファーストタイム	◎ [fərs(t)taim]	（「フースタイ(ム)」に近い音）

・並んだ子音が完全に同じ音でなくても、消える場合あり

➔ 前の子音が消える場合

| good bye | × グッドバイ | ◎ [gu(d)bai] | （「グバィ」に近い音） |
| back door | × バックドア | ◎ [bæ(k)dɔːr] | （「バッドー」に近い音） |

➔ 後の子音が消える場合

| I like them ➔ I like'em | them の th が落ちて「ライケム」に近い音に |
| Did you call her ➔ Did you call'er | her の h が落ちて「コーラー」に近い音に |

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Summary

OK? So let's summarize today's lesson. Both Japanese and English have many sound change patterns, but they are sometimes quite different. As we've seen today, when an "N" is followed by a vowel, nasal vowel replacement is a very common practice in Japanese, as in は〜おん or ぜ〜いん, and even nasal doubling sometimes happens as well in Japanese as in はんのう or かんのん. However, none of these applies to English in the same phonological context.　Instead, nasal sharing is the common practice in this case in English. The N is pronounced as if it is the first sound of the next word. Representative examples are, *open-air*, or *turn out*. Don't say ランナー[raŋ + Naー]. It's *runner* [rʌnər].

Next, we've seen another type of English sound change pattern, which many Japanese students are not very good at: Consonant drop. This phonetic phenomenon is quite typical in the English sound change system, especially when identical or similar sounds are aligned next to each other. Therefore, if you get accustomed to consonant drop patterns in English, your pronunciation will be very clear and natural. Plus, your listening comprehension will also become a lot better.

> **Satoshi**: Hi, Chuck.
>
> **Chuck**: Hey, Satoshi.
>
> **Satoshi**: Shall we do it?
>
> **Chuck**: OK. Yeah, good idea.
>
>   Heads or tails?
>
> **Satoshi**: Heads.
>
> **Chuck**: It's tails. I won.

Okay, that's all for today. Good luck, keep practicing, and see you next time

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Further Tips (1)

英語は閉音節言語 / 日本語は開音節言語

日本語は、音節末の「ん」や促音（小さい「っ」で表す）の場合を除き、音節はすべて母音[a, i, u, e, o]で終わる**開音節言語（open-syllable language）**です。したがって、通常子音の連続は起こりません。一方、英語は音節が子音で終わる単語がたくさんある**閉音節言語（closed-syllable language）**です。したがって、子音で終わっている単語の次に、母音が来たり、子音で終わっている単語の次に子音で始まる単語がくるなど、日本語ではあまり見られない、音のつながりのパターンがたくさん出てきます。

[単語 …子音] + [母音 … 単語]

[単語 …子音] + [子音 … 単語]

このような時に起こる音韻変化のパターンを一通り覚え、それを意識しながら発音練習を積み重ねていくと、英語の聞き取り、発音ともに飛躍的によくなります。

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Further Tips (2)

単語の中での子音脱落も　　　脱落形が辞書形になった例も

上記では、ba(ck) door や bi(g) game、I like (th)em のように、単語と単語が繋がった場合の子音脱落の例を見てきました。実際には１つの単語の中で、特定の子音がほとんど聞こえなくなる（脱落する）例もあります。

actually [æktʃuəli]は通常の発音で、[k]の音が次の[tʃ]に吸収され、ほとんど聞こえなくなります。[æ(k)tʃuəli]

apartment も、apart の[t]の音が次の[m]の音に吸収されてほとんど聞こえなくなります。[əpɑːr(t)mənt]

さらにつづりから見ると本来あったと思われる子音の音が、現代英語では完全に発音されなくなっている例もあります。

Wednesday の最初の[d]音は、多くの標準的英語において、全く発音されません。[wenzdei]
cupboard の[p]の音も、全く発音されません。[kʌbərd]

＊見た目（つづり）に惑わされず、本物の音で覚えておく習慣をつけましょう。