

Weak Forms 弱读

在英语中，与句重音相对应的出现的是非重读音节，它们一起构成了句子的高低起伏，强弱交替的节奏模式，形成具有表意功能的连贯句子。这些非重读音节体现在单个单词中就是常说的某些单音节的**弱读或非重读** (unstressed syllable)。英语是节奏感很强的语言，要掌握好英语节奏，首先要熟悉**强读式**(strong forms)和**弱读式**(weak forms)，它对语言连贯、流畅性起着重要的作用。

一、强读和弱读

强读和弱读实际就是重读和弱读，一句话中至少有一个重要的音节要重读，其他音节相应弱读。重读音节从音高和音强上应该 big, strong, important loudly, 非重读音节 (弱读) 就应该是 **weak or small or quiet**。

强读和弱读通过一定形式在句子中体现，英语中有接近五十多个单音节词有两种读音形式：弱读形式和强读形式。在连贯的语言中弱读形式的使用比强读形式更多，更重要。重读或强读形式其实是单个单词发音的基本形式，即音标中的读音形式，而弱读形式从音质上和强读形式比较起来短而轻；在前面学习中，我们知道短元音 /ə/ 和 /i/ 常出现在非重读音节中，因此多数弱读形式体现也以 /ə/ 或 /i/ 体现。

二、弱读形式

从上一单元可以知道，在英语句子中，实词一般要重读虚词弱读，其中有弱读形式的单音节词根据不同类别可以分为以下几种：

冠词、人称代词、be 动词、助动词、情态动词、单音节介词、单音节、连词以及其他特殊词。其弱读形式见表

从表 8-1 中，我们对五十多个单音节词的弱读形式进行归纳，得出三个规律：

1) 弱读形式以 /ə/ 为主, 大部分的弱读形式都和 /ə/ 有关, 极少部分与 /i/ 和 /u/ 有关, 如 a /ə/, some /səm/; who /hu, u/ my /mi/。

2) 如果单词是发长音，其弱读形式一般变成相应短音，如：
be /bi/ been /bin/ her /hə/ 等。

3) 在语流很快时或者可以缩略的单词中，常常只出现辅音，如 will /l/ is /z, s/ am /m/ 等。

弱读形式		Weak forms and Example	
单词			
Article 冠词	a	/ə/	a book, in a minute,
	an	/ən, n/	an hour, in an hour,
	the	/ð/ 辅音前, /ð/ 元音前	the book, the apple
Be 动词	am	/əm/ m/	What am I to do?
	is	/z, s/	He's at home.
	are	/ə/, /ər/ 元音前	What are you doing?

	be	/bi/	Don't be late.
	been	/bin/	You've been a long time.
	was	/wəz/	He was a rich man.
	were	/wə/	What were you doing?
助动词	have	/həv,əv,v/	Have you been to Shanghai?
	has	/həz,əz,z,s/	The bus has gone.
	had	/həd,əd,d/	The room had been reserved.
	do	/du,də,d/	What do you want?
	does	/dəz,z,s/	How does it work?
情态动词	will	/l/	I'll do it.
	would	/wəd,əd,d /	What would you like?
	should	/ʃəd,ʃd /	What should I say?
	could	/kəd,kd /	I wish I could do something for you.
	must	/məst/	He must go now.
	can	/kən,kn/	What can I do to make up you?
	shall	/ʃəl,ʃl/	I shall wait for you.
短小连词	that	/ðət, ð/	This is the best that I can do.
	as	/əz/	as long as , do as I do
	but	/bət/	It's old but useful.
	and	/ənd,nd,ən,n /	you and me, a cat and a dog
	than	/ðən, ðn/	It's more than I want.
	such	/sətʃ/	I never heard of such thing.
短小介词	at	/ət/	at six, at school
	of	/əv,v,ə/	a lot of money, one of the book
	off	/əf/	take off
	to	/tə,u/	Do you want to go? I'd love to .
	for	/fə/	Is this for you? for a long time
	from	/frəm/	She just come back from Italy.
人称代词	he	/hi,i/	What did he say? He told me a story.
	him	/im/	I write him a letter.
	his	/iz/	
	she	/ʃi/	What did she say? She's fine
	her	/hə,ə,/	I gave her the book.
	me	/mi/	You make me happy.
	us	/əs/	They told us to go.
	you	/ju/	What're you doing? How do you do?
	your	/jə/,jət/(元音前)	
	them	/ðəm/, ðn/,m/	If I saw them , I'll tell them that.
	we	/wi/	We 'd like a drink.
	who	/hu/, /u/	Who are you?
	my	/mi/	Do you know my brother?
其他词	some	/səm/	Would like some drink?
	not	/nt,n/	I haven't finish it.

	there	/ðə/, /ðer/ (元音前) There is a book.
	or	/ə/ two or three
	so	/sə/ Thank you so much.
	many	/mni/ How many ?

有了这三个规律, 对这些单音节词的弱读形式可以运用正确读音, 连贯句子; 但同时还需注意几个问题:

- 1) he, her, his, have, has, had 不带/h/的弱读形式不用在句首;
- 2) has, does, is 弱读形式/s/用在清辅音的后面, /z/放在浊辅音或元音的后面, 如: it' s: /its/;
- 3) the 在元音前和在辅音前的读音不一样;
- 4) there are your, 只有在后面有元音时才有/r/, 在下一单元连读要涉及;
- 5) 有些弱读形式较常用, 有些不常用, 只有在较快的口语中使用, 如: my /mi/ or /ə/ so /sə/ such /sətʃ/。
- 6) 尽管以上助动词、情态动词、介词有弱读形式, 但当他们位于句末时不用弱读形式, 例如:

---Are you a student?

---Yes I am

What are you working for?

What are you fighting for?

Where are you from?

- 7) 对于中元音/ə/发音特点要牢固掌握, 即轻而弱, 自然而放松。