

# Weak & Strong Forms

we saw stressed and unstressed  
syllables in individual words

something similar happens in  
complete sentences

Where are you from?

Where are you from?



I'm from London.



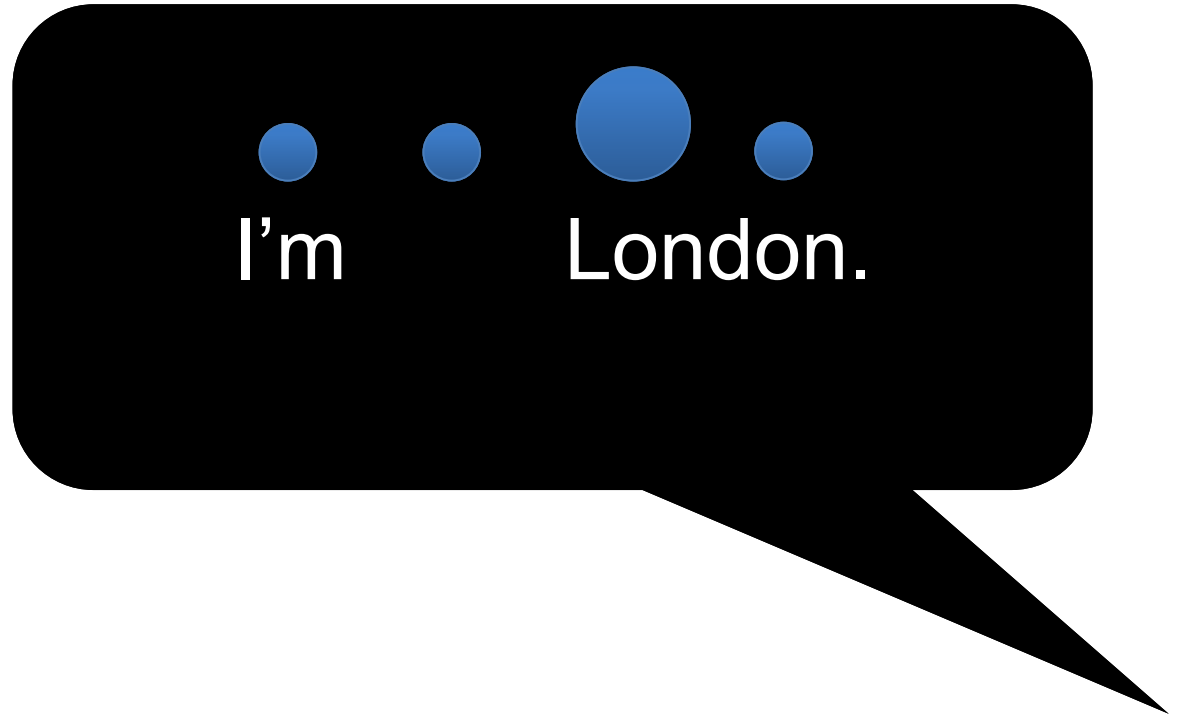
Where are you from?



I'm from London.



Where are you from?





Where are you from?



I'm from London.





Where are you from



A black speech bubble with a white question inside. The bubble has a rounded rectangular body and a pointed tail pointing towards the bottom right. The text is centered within the body of the bubble.

Are they from Italy?



Are they from Italy?

Yes, they **are**.



Are they from Italy?



Yes, they **are**.



Are they from Italy?



Yes, they are.



Are they from Italy?



Yes, they are.

ə



Are they from Italy?



Yes, they are.

some words have two pronunciations



a weak form

/ frəm /

are / ə /

and a strong form

are / frɒm /  
are / aɪ /

the **weak form** is the usual  
pronunciation

the **weak form** is the usual  
pronunciation

the **strong form** is used only when the  
word is stressed

the **strong form** is used only when the  
word is stressed  
eg. when it's the last word

the vowel is simplified

to ə or I

which words have weak and strong  
forms?



prepositions

prepositions

auxiliary verbs

prepositions

auxiliary verbs

modal verbs

**prepositions**  
**auxiliary verbs**  
**modal verbs**  
**pronouns**

prepositions

auxiliary verbs

modal verbs

pronouns

**possessive adjectives**

**prepositions**

**auxiliary verbs**

**modal verbs**

**pronouns**

**possessive adjectives**

**possessive pronouns**

prepositions

auxiliary verbs

modal verbs

pronouns

possessive adjectives

possessive pronouns

**conjunctions**

prepositions

auxiliary verbs

modal verbs

pronouns

possessive adjectives

possessive pronouns

conjunctions

**articles**



prepositions

auxiliary verbs

modal verbs

pronouns

possessive adjectives

possessive pronouns

conjunctions

articles

prepositions  
auxiliary verbs  
modal verbs  
pronouns  
possessive adjectives  
possessive pronouns  
conjunctions  
articles



**'grammar'  
words**

which words only have strong forms?

nouns

nouns

**MAIN VERBS**

nouns

main verbs

**adjectives**

nouns

main verbs

adjectives

adverbs

nouns

main verbs

adjectives

adverbs

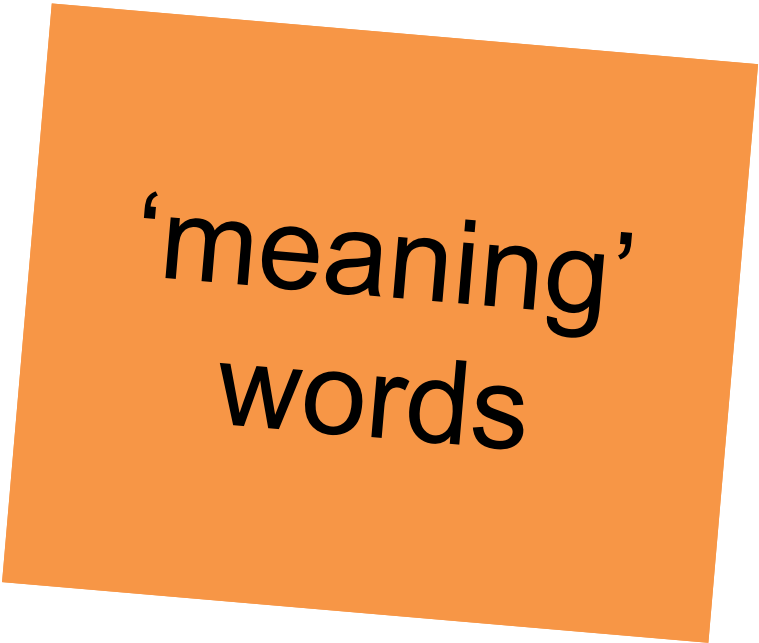


nouns

main verbs

adjectives

adverbs



**'meaning'**  
**words**

prepositions

weak form

strong form

---

from

frəm

frɒm

to

tə

tuː

at

ət

æt

in

ɪn

ɪn

on

ɒn

ɒn

aux. verbs

weak form

strong form

---

am

əm

æm

are

ə

aɪ

have

həv

hæv

had

həd

hæd

does

dəz

dʌz

modal verbs

weak form

strong form

---

can

kən

kæn

will

wɪl

wɪl

would

wəd

wʊd

shall

ʃəl

ʃæl

must

mʌst

mʌst

articles

weak form

strong form

---

a

ə

eɪ

an

ən

æn

the

ðə

ðiː

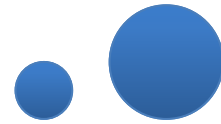
when do **weak** forms become **strong**?

1.

the end of the sentence

Where are you from?





Yes, I am.

No, I'm not.

## 2. negatives



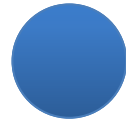
I can speak German.



I can speak German.

I can't speak German.





I can't speak German.


You aren't listening.







I'm not listening.



the stress is always on 'not'  
even when it's abbreviated

3.

auxiliary or modal substitutes or  
includes the main verb

I can't speak German

but my friend can.

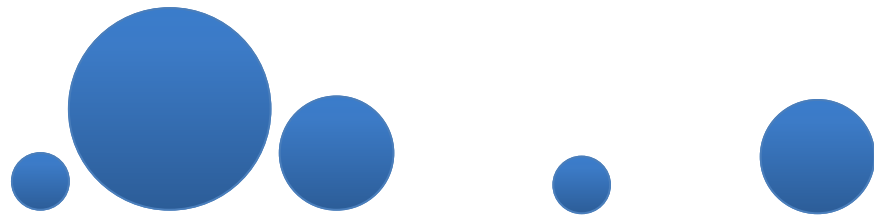
Do you like English coffee?



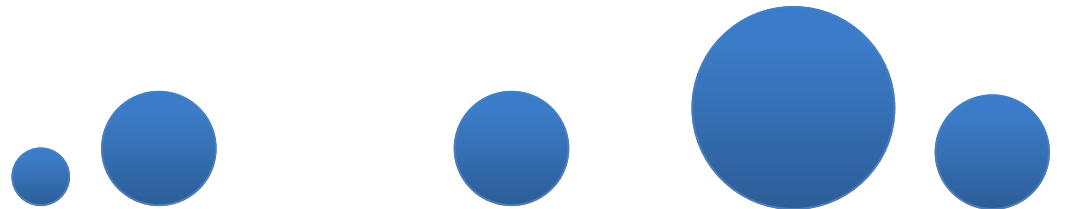
No, I don't.

4.

double stress for emphasis



I do like your hat!

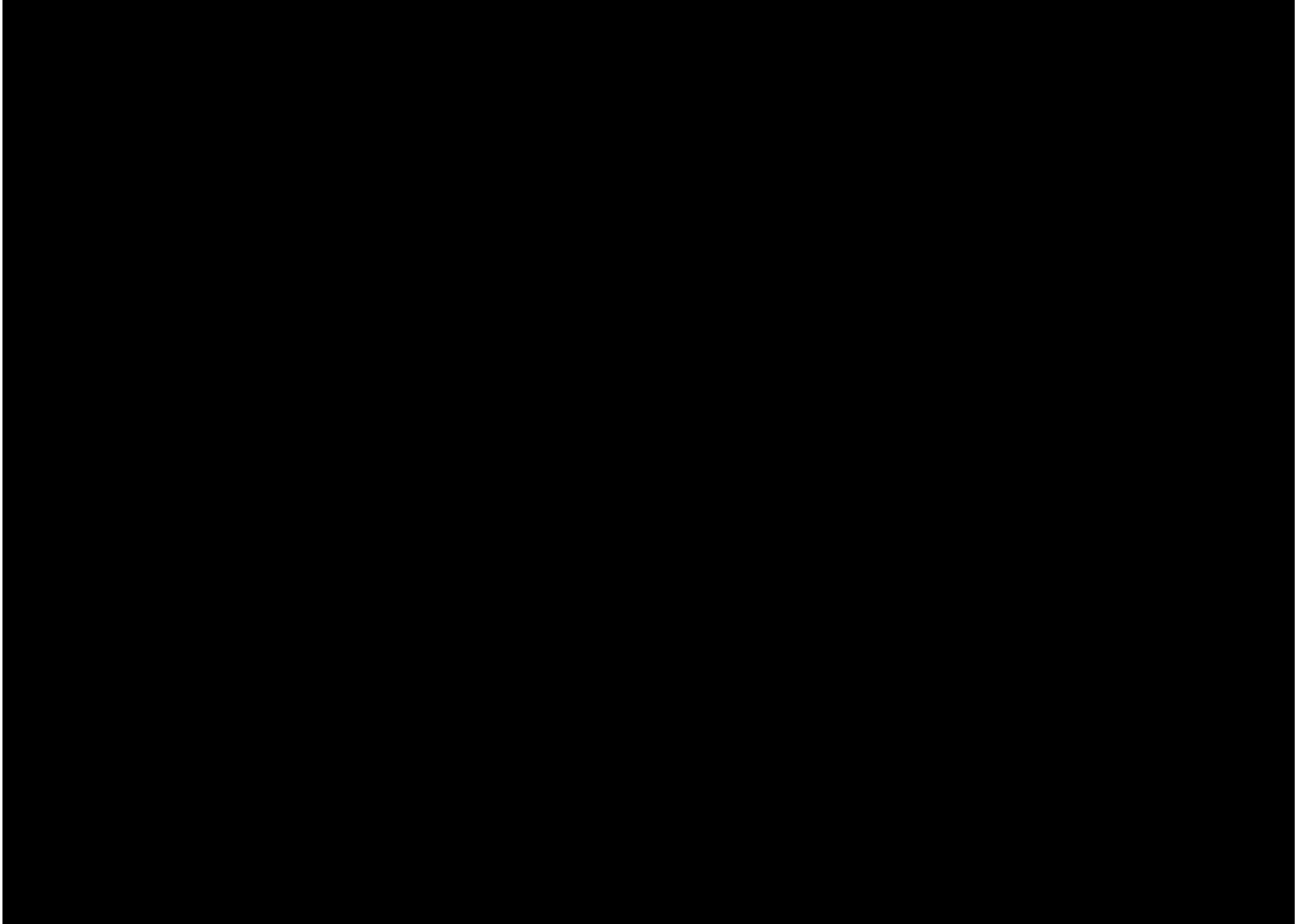


I didn't crash my car!



I didn't crash my car.  
I crashed **hers!**

Video : Today Is the Best Day of my Life



# HOMework

make a list of the weak forms that you used in your latest writing homework

University of Baghdad  
Ibn Rushd college/English Dep.

**SALAH KAMIL HASAN ALI**