4. Consonant sequences (clusters)

In chapter three, we saw how single consonants are made. In this chapter we see two or more consonants coming next each other without a vowel between them in one syllable. There are three positions, (initial, medial, and final)

- Initial: (ccv, cccv)
- Medial: (vccv, vcccv)
- Final: vcc, vccc, vcccc)

• *Initial consonant sequences*: it is a sequence of two or three consonants coming at the beginning of words. There are of two main kinds;

1) /s/ followed by one of /p, t, k, m, n, l, w, j/ examples of two consonant sequence

1st sound	2nd sound	Example	Symbol
S	p	spare	spɪə
	T	star	sta:
	K	sky	skaɪ
	F (ph)	sphere	sfɪə
	M	smell	smel
	N	snake	sneɪk
	L	sleep	sli:p
	W	sweet	swi:t
	j	Sue….. suit	sju:….. sju:t

2. one of /p, t, k, b, d, g, f, Θ, ʃ, v, m, n, h/ followed by one of /l, r, w, j/ not all of these sequences are found e.g /pw, d/ do not occur, examples

1st sound	2nd sound	Example	Symbol
p	l, r, j	play, pray, pure	*pleɪ, preɪ, pjuə*
t	r, w, j	try, twice, tune	*traɪ, twaɪ, tju:n*
k	l, r, w, j	climb, cry, quite, cure	*klaɪm, kraɪ, kwaɪt, kjuə*
b	l, r, j	blow, bread, beauty	*bluə, bred, bju:ti*
d	r, w, j	dress, dwell, duty	*dres, dwel, dju:ti*
g	l, r	glass, green	*gla:s, gri:n*
f	l, r, j	fly, from, few	*flaɪ, fram, fju:*
Θ	r, w	three, threw	*Θri:, Θru:*
ʃ	r	shrill	*ʃril*
v	j	view	*vju:*
m	j	music	*mju:zɪk*
n	j	new	*nju:*
h	j	huge	*hu:j*

- *Sequences of three consonants initially:* means three consonant sound come together in one syllable at the beginning of a word without a vowel, /s+/p, t, k/ after that /l, w, r, j/, examples

1st sound	2nd sound	3rd sound	Example	Symbol
S	p	r	spread	*spred*
		l	splendid	*splendɪd*
		j	spew	*Spju:*
	t	r	straight	*streɪt*
		j	stupid	*Stju:pɪd*
	k	l	scream	*Skri:m*
		j	skew	*skju:*
		w	square	*skwə*

- *Medial consonant sequences: is a sequence of two, three or four consonants coming in the middle of the word*
  - *Two consonant sequences: ending= endiŋ, actor= æktə, picture= piktʃə*
  - *three consonant sequences: actress= æktris, extend= ekstend, friendly= frendli*
  - *four consonant sequences: explain= eksplein, excuse= ekskju:z, extra= ekstrə*
  - *vccvc, vccv, cvccv…… vcccvc, vcccvc, vcccvcc……vccccvc, vccccvc, vccccv*
- *final consonant sequences*: it is a sequence of two, three or four consonants coming at the end of a word, and this kind of sequences are more varied than at the beginning mainly because /s or z/ have added to most nouns to give their plural forms as in;

Word	Sound	Word	Sound	Word	Sound	Word	Sound
cats	*kæts*	*dogs*	*dɒgz*	*facts*	*fækts*	*fields*	*Fi:ldz*

Types of explosion

1. lateral explosion
2. nasal explosion
3. regular explosion
4. missing explosion

1. Stop +stop: when one stop consonant is immediately followed by another, there are two closures and one explosion as in, kept /kept/, act /ækt/

2. Stop + nasal: when /t or d/ are followed by a syllabic /n or m/ the explosion of the stop takes place through the nose as in,

Word	Sound	Word	Sound	Word	Sound
garden	*Ga:dən*	*utmost*	*ʌtməʊst*	*eight men*	*eɪt men*

3. */t and d + l/: /t and d/ are made with the tongue-tip on the alveolar ridge and the sides of the tongue firmly touching the sides of the palate as in;*

Word	Sound	Word	Sound	Word	Sound
middle	*midəl*	*battle*	*bætəl*	*tittle*	*taɪtl*

4. *Consonant +s, z, t, d/ because of the way in which regular plural are formed in English, here are very many sequences of a consonant followed by them as in,*

Word	Sound	Word	Sound	Word	Sound	Word	Sound
cups	*kʌps*	*jobs*	*dʒɒpz*	*seemed*	*si:md*	*washed*	*wɒʃt*

5. *Consonant + /θ/: the consonant /t, d, n, l/ are followed by /θ/ in words as;*

Word	Sound	Word	Sound	Word	Sound	Word	Sound
fifth	*fɪfθ*	*length*	*leŋθ*	*breadth*	*bredθ*	*twelfth*	*twelfθ*

6. */l/ + consonant: there are many various consonants may follow by /l/ as in;*

Word	Sound	Word	Sound	Word	Sound	Word	Sound
help	*help*	*film*	*film*	*fault*	*fɒlt*	*shelve*	*ʃelv*

7. */Nasal + consonant: in all these words in the table below the vocal organs are exactly the same position for the nasal as for the second consonant*

Word	Sound	Word	Sound	Word	Sound	Word	Sound
sense	*sens*	*thank*	*θæŋk*	*jump*	*dʒʌmp*	*revenge*	*rɪvendʒ*

<u>Long consonant sequences</u>: (occur between words, phrases, sentences), in phrases one word may end with a consonant sequence and the next word may begin with one, so that longer sequences such as /ŋksk/ quite commonly occur example, the bank's closed /ðə bæ<u>ŋks</u> <u>k</u>ləʊzd/

Long. Consonant Sequence	Word	Sound
Three consonant	best man	*best mæn*
Four consonant	next Sunday	*nekst sʌndɪ*
Five consonant	milk's free	*mɪlks fri:*
Six consonant	next spring	*nekst sprɪŋ*
Seven consonant	the text's stupid	*ðə teksts stju:pɪd*

Missing explosion happens whenever one stop consonant (except dʒ) is followed immediately by another including (tʃ and dʒ).