POSITIONAL VARIATION

Initial stop consonants \((p,b,t,d,k,g)\)

Compare: pill bill
time dime
cage gauge

Initial voiceless stops are ASPIRATED
(symbol = \(C^h\))

Medial voiceless stops \((p, t, k)\)

paper upper/appear apple/apply
tutor attic/attack critic/critique
cooking decade/decayed bacon/become

At the beginning of a stressed syllable, medial voiceless stops are also aspirated
**Medial /nt/ before an unstressed syllable = “disappearing /t/”**

in(t)ernational  
San(t)a Claus  
quan(t)ity

en(t)ertainment  
Win(t)er Quarter  
twen(t)y-three

**Medial /h/ also tends to disappear before unstressed syllables**

inhibit  
historic  
vehicular

in(h)ibition  
pre(h)istoric  
ve(h)icle

ve(h)emently

**Special Case of a medial /l/ and /n/**

\[
/ t/  
/d/ + unstressed syllable with /l/ = SYLLABIC [ŋ, l]  
/n/\]

syllabic [ŋ]  
syllabic [l]

**glottalized /t/:**

important  
certainly  
sentence

little  
bottle  
riddle  
tunnel

**nasal release on /d/:**

sudden  
wouldn’t  
bread and butter

metal/medal/meddle
**Final Consonants**

Compare: bus buzz

How are they different?
- voiceless/voiced final consonant
- vowel length (symbol = V:)

- for fricatives & affricates:
  length/strength of release

  seyf sey:v
  pleys pley:z
  tiyθ tiy:ə
  rɪtʃ rɪ:dʒ

- for stops:
  voiced & voiceless UNRELEASED (symbol = C°)

  læk° læ:g°
  rɪp° rɪ:b°
  dɛt° dɛ:d°
Special case: Medial /t/

The NAE flap /ɹ/

Listen:
water  butter  pretty

Compare:
forty  fourteen
atom  atomic
matter  master

What's the difference between the medial /t/ in the two columns?

RULE--What two conditions must be met for a flap to occur?

1. between voiced sounds

2. at-the-beginning-of-an unstressed syllable