Tomotaka Imai Lesson 28

During lesson 28, we studied more word-linking. Specifically, we focused on how vowels are linked to other vowels in American English. Keep in mind with all of these examples, that they can both happen between two words as well as within one word.

Linking Rounded Vowels to Other Vowels

When a vowel which ends in a rounded /u/ (or /ʊ/ in a diphthong) is followed by any other vowel, instead of pronouncing them separately, it is more natural to insert a short /w/ in between the sounds, so that the airflow and voicing can continue uninterrupted. You did well with this linking technique. If you'd like some more practice with this, try the phrases on **page 49 of American Accent Training.**

Linking Vowels with /i/ to Other Vowels

When a vowel which ends in the high /i/ (or /ɪ/ in a diphthong) sound is followed by any other vowel, it is natural to insert a /j/ (the books use /y/) sound in between them. You did very well with this, but it was sometimes difficult to tell when a word ends in /i/ or /u/, so that you can choose the correct rule. I've included a chart to in this feedback report that shows which are which, but an overall rule is that if you have to move your mouth a lot in order to insert a /w/ or /y/, then it probably doesn't end in /i/ or /u/. It should feel pretty low-effort to make these connections. Try the practice dialogue on **page 123-124 of Mastering the American Accent.**

Phrasing and Pausing

We also worked some with phrasing and pausing during the lesson. You did well with this, but it was a bit difficult to guess the meaning of some of the sentences, and there aren't many general rules for this, as it heavily relies on context. I recommend taking a look at the sentences on **pages 51-53 of Pronouncing American English**. Practice reading them with natural pauses. The pauses are usually well marked with commas.

Linking Chart

How to Link	Vowel	Example
/y/	/i/	bee
/y/	/eɪ/	bay
/y/	/aɪ/	bye
/y/	/ɔɪ/	boy
/w/	/u/	boo
/w/	/oʊ/	bow (for hunting)
/w/	/aʊ/	bow (for formality)