

6: Consonant Sequences

p. 64

(1)

Consonant Sequences/ Clusters

- There are many cases where two or three or four or even more consonants follow one after the other. **cream /kri:m/, scream /skri:m/, next /nekst/, texts /teksts/.**
- Some languages (Russian) have many consonant sequences.
- Other languages (Vietnamese) do not have sequences of consonants at all, or only very few and very short ones.
- Two consonants are usually separated by a vowel.

Consonant Sequences/ Clusters

- **What is consonant sequences?**
- *When there are two or three or four consonants with no vowel between them such a sequence is called consonant sequences or consonant clusters.*
- **Consonant Sequences** are of three types:
- initial sequences, medial, and final sequences

1. Initial Sequences

- *At the beginning of English words there may be either two or three consonants in sequence.*
- There are **TWO TYPES** of initial two consonant clusters
 1. **/s/** followed by one of **/p, t, k, f, m, n, l, w, j/**, e.g. in *spy, stay, sky, sphere, small, snow, sleep, swear, suit.*
 2. one of **/p, t, k, b, d, g, f, θ, ʃ, v, m, n, h/** followed by one of **/l, r, w, j/**. (p.64-65)

1. Initial Sequences

- **/p/** followed by **/l, r, j /** (*plat, pray, pure*)
- **/t/** followed by **/r, w, j/** (*try, twice, tune*)
- **/k/** followed by **/ l, r, w, j/** (*climb, cry, quite, cure*)
- **/b/** followed by **/l, r, j/** (*blow, bread, beauty*).
- **/d/** followed by **/r, w, j/** (*dress, dwell, duty*)
- **/g/** followed by **/l, r/** (*glass, green*)
- **/f/** followed by **/l, r, j/** (*fly, from, few*)
- **/θ/** followed by **/r, w /** (*throw, thwart*)
- **/ʃ/** followed by **/r/** (*shriek*)
- **/v/** followed by **/j/** (*view*)
- **/m/** followed by **/j/** (*music*)
- **/n/** followed by **/j/** (*new*)
- **/h/** followed by **/j/** (*huge*)

1. Initial Sequences

- Sequences of three consonants initially
- These are /spr, str, skr, spj, stj, skj, spl, skw/.

/spred/ spread

/streit/ straight

/skru:/ screw

/spjuəriəs/ spurious

/stju:pid/ stupid

/skjuə/ skewer

/splendid/ splendid

/skweə/ square

The sequence /spj/ is rare.

THANKS FOR LISTENING