

Week 14. General American (cont.)

4.			
4.3	t tapping/voicing	t → ɾ (r, d) / V _ [V -str]	<i>city, atom/Adam writer/rider (vowels?)</i>
4.4	nt reduction	nt → nɾ, ɾ, n / <i>as above</i>	<i>center, winter/winner</i>
4.5	/l/ darker	l → ɫ / V _ V	<i>valley, selling</i>
4.6	syllabic /n/ in more environments	e.g. /nt_	<i>Clinton, sentence, mountain, continental</i>
5.	Vowel reduction, stress		
5.1	strong (cf RP weak)	-ary, -ory, -ony	<i>momentary, category, ceremony; corollary</i>
5.2	weak (cf RP strong)	-ile, -ization you; ± anti-	<i>missile, organization tell you; antihistamine</i>
5.3	disyllabic verbs	-ate	<i>vibrate, locate</i>
5.4	lexical		<i>tomato, clerk, herb...</i>

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One day last year, when I was driving back to work after I'd had lunch, I had an amazing and unforgettable experience. It must have been two o'clock — or perhaps a quarter of an hour later, a quarter past two. It was an incredible thing, really: I was sitting there at the steering wheel of my new car, waiting for the lights to change, when all of a sudden the car started to shake this way and that, rocking from side to side, throwing me backwards and forwards, up and down. I felt as if I was riding a bucking horse. Worse than that, some mysterious spirit or hostile force seemed to be venting its vast fury upon the earth. And the noise! — there was a kind of deep groaning and horrible awesome grinding which seemed to fill the air. And then, a short while after, the whole paroxysm had stopped, just as suddenly. Everything was calm and smooth again, quiet and peaceful once more. I put my foot down, just a gentle pressure on the accelerator (or the gas pedal, as it's known in America), and drove off. Everything was utterly normal once more. So, then — was this some very local and momentary earth tremor which had struck us? Or, I ask myself, was it a supernatural visitation, some fiery storm of diabolical wrath? Or was it, rather, merely that I'd drunk a double vodka or two during my lunch?

TELSUR project: http://www.ling.upenn.edu/phono_atlas/