

## Lecture 7 Inflectional morphology; weak forms

### 1. Verb and noun inflections

#### 1.1 -(e)d

/ɪd/ (or /əd/) after /t/ or /d/: *waited, graded, wasted, landed*

/t/ after a voiceless consonant: *kissed, helped*

/d/ otherwise: *rubbed, named, snowed, tried, paid*

Exceptions: adjectives such as *wicked, learned*;  
-edly, -edness: *markedly, wellformedness*

#### 1.2 -(e)s

/ɪz/ (or /əz/) after a sibilant (= /s z ʒ ʒ tʃ dʒ/): *horses, churches*

/s/ after a voiceless consonant: *cats, ducks, cliffs*

/z/ elsewhere: *dogs, pens, toes*

Several plurals have irregular voicing: *loaves, knives; mouths, youths; houses*  
Uncertainty over possessives of sibilant-stem proper names: *Dickens'(s) novels*

#### 1.3 -ing

/ɪŋ/ varying socially/stylistically with /ɪn, ən, ŋ/

internal linking /r/ *fearing, sharing, storing, barring, stirring, gathering*

internal intrusive /r/? *concertinaing; thawing*

compression *rattling, saddening*; not in *tunnelling, honouring*

no irregularities!

#### 1.4 -ly

degemination after /l/ *fully, really, vitally, specially; basically, historically*  
not in *solely, dully, ?wholly, foully, futilely, banally...*

## 2. Weak forms of function words

### 2.1 Many function words have distinct strong and weak forms

e.g. *that* /ðæt → ðət/ I can see *that*. I can see *that* she's right.

Likewise *them; am, and, as, at, can, had, has, have, shall, than; are; from, of, was; for; could, should, would; but, does, must, some* (adj), *us; her, Sir, were; a, St., there.*

**High vowels:** e.g. *me* /mi: → mi/ Tell me! Special: *the, to, do*

Likewise *be, he, she, we; who, you* **h-drop:** *him, her, have, who...* (not phr.-initial)

### 2.2 Strong form used

- when accented (contrasted, co-ordinated, emphasized, mentioned)  
*from him, not to him; to and from work; you must try; over-use of 'and'*
- when stranded (by a syntactic deletion or movement)  
*She can do it better than he can \_\_. Where do they come from \_\_?*
- for rhythmic reasons  
*I've got a note/letter for you.*
- special: *that* (demonstrative), *some* (pronominal), *have* (lexical verb)