

Connected speech

Strong and weak forms of prepositions



1 T3.8 Listen to this conversation between James Bond's boss, M, and his secretary, Miss Moneypenny. As you listen, fill in the missing prepositions.

B Hello. Can I speak (1) to Miss Moneypenny?

S Speaking.

B Hello, M here. I'm phoning (2) _____ the Ritz. I'm looking (3) _____ James Bond. We had a lunch appointment (4) _____ twelve. Is he there?

S I'm sorry, sir, but he's gone (5) _____ Budapest.

B I was afraid (6) _____ that. Where exactly?

S He's staying (7) _____ the Hotel Royal.

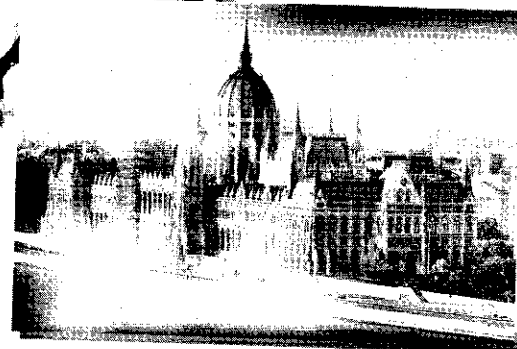
B Why didn't he listen (8) _____ me? He's just asking (9) _____ trouble.

S He's only staying there (10) _____ a couple (11) _____ days.

B All right. Contact him and tell him (12) _____ me he's a damn fool. Oh, and you can tell him I'm waiting (13) _____ his call.

S Yes, sir.

What do you notice about the pronunciation of these prepositions?



2 Look back at the dialogue and complete each phrase below with a preposition.

_____ Miss Moneypenny
Budapest
me

_____ the Ritz
me

_____ James Bond
trouble
a couple
his call

appointment _____ twelve
staying _____ the Hotel Royal

afraid _____ that
couple _____ days

3 T3.9 Listen and practise saying the prepositions on their own and in the phrases.

4 Read the dialogue aloud with a partner. Pronounce the prepositions in their weak forms.