

Lesson Fifteen

Them

Strong form: ðem; weak forms: ðəm, ðm, occasionally weak forms: əm, əm

The strong form / ðem / is used for contrast, (e.g. ‘**them** and us’) or for emphasis, (e.g. ‘look at **them**’). The weak form is usually /ðəm/, (e.g. ‘Leave **them** alone’ / ,li:v ðəm ə'ləʊn /; ‘Leave **them** here’ / 'li:v ðəm 'hiə /; ‘Eat **them**’ / 'i: t ðəm /), or in rapid, casual speech / ðm /, (e.g. ‘Run **them** out’ / ,rʌn ðm 'aʊt /).