

Lesson Twenty-one

To

Strong form: tu:; weak forms: tu, tə

The strong form is usually used contrastively, (e.g. ‘The letter was **to** him, not from him’), and sometimes in final position, (e.g. ‘I don’t want **to**’) though the / u / vowel is more often used in this context. The weak form / tə / is used before consonants, (e.g. ‘**to** cut’ / tə 'kʌt /; ‘Try **to** stop’ / 'traɪ tə 'stɒp /). Weak form / u / before vowels (e.g. ‘I suppose we ought **to** ask them’ / aɪ sə'pəʊz wɪ ɔ:t u 'ɑ:sk ðəm/).