

Lesson Twenty-nine

Had

Strong form: hæd; weak forms: həd, əd, d

The strong form is used when **had** occurs as a full verb rather than an auxiliary, (e.g. 'We **had** some tea'). The auxiliary is a weak form word; the strong form / hæd / is used contrastively, (e.g. 'I don't know if she **had** or she **hadn't**'), in final position, (e.g. 'I'd read as much as he **had**') and quite frequently in initial position, (e.g. '**Had** anyone seen it before?'). It is also used for emphasis, (e.g. 'It **had** to break down when it was raining'). Elsewhere, the weak form is usually / həd / or / əd / (e.g. 'Most **had** gone home' / 'məʊst əd 'gʊn 'həʊm /). The form / d / is usually used only after vowels, (e.g. 'If they had asked me I would have been able to help' / 'ɪf ðeɪd 'ɑ:skt mi aɪd əv bi:n 'eɪbl tə help /).