

Lesson Thirty-five

Am

Strong form: æm; weak forms: əm, m

The strong form / æm / is used for emphasis (e.g. 'I **am** going to leave'), for contrast (e.g. 'I know what I **am** and **am** not capable of.') and in final position (e.g. 'That's who I **am**'). The weak form is usually / əm / (e.g. 'How **am** I going to pay?' / ˌhaʊ əm aɪ ˌgəʊɪŋ tə 'peɪ / 'Why **am** I here?' / 'waɪ əm aɪ 'hɪə /), but after 'I' / aɪ / it is frequently shortened to / m / (e.g. I am (I'm) here' / aɪm 'hɪə /).