

Gonna and Wanna

Informal American English Pronunciation

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Wanna and **gonna** are two examples of informal spoken [American English](#). **Wanna** means 'want to', and **gonna** means 'going to'. You'll hear these phrases in movies, pop music and other forms of entertainment, although you are less likely to hear them in more formal shows, like the news.

These two expressions are not generally used in written English but in spoken English. **Wanna** and **gonna** are examples of reductions.

Reductions are short, commonly used phrases that are spoken quickly. These reductions tend to be used for function words such as [auxiliary verbs](#). It is important to remember that there are important differences in [American English and British English](#) pronunciation. British English also has its own exceptions in pronunciation.

There are different views on whether students should use this type of pronunciation. In my opinion, students who live in North America should at least be familiar with these forms as they will hear them every day. If students decide to use this pronunciation, they should remember that it is appropriate only for informal spoken English and should not be used (except for texting, perhaps) in written English.

REDUCTIONS IN QUESTIONS

The most common reductions are found at the beginning of questions. Here's a list of important reductions with the pronunciation written out to help you learn to recognize them in everyday American English.

To begin with, listen to this [reduction pronunciation sound file](#)  of the most common questions.

Are you ...? = arya

Can you ...? = kinya

Could you ...? = kudja

Would you ...? = wudja

Did you ...? = didja

Do you ...? = doja

Don't you ...? = doncha

Will you ...? = wilja

Do you want to ...? = doyawanna

Are you going to ...?

= aryagonna

Do you have to ...? = dijahafta

FOCUS ON THE MAIN VERB

If you choose to use reductions in your use of American English, it is important to focus on the main verb in the question to correctly pronounce using reductions. In other words, we quickly speak over the reduced forms (are you, could you, etc.) and stress the main verb. Listen to these [example reduced questions](#) (▶) to hear the how the [main verb is stressed](#).

Are you ...? = arya

Are you enjoying yourself?

Are you going to help me tonight?

Can you ...? = kinya

Can you say that again?

Can you understand me?

Could you ...? = kudja

Could you help me?

Could you visit next month?

Would you ...? = wudja

Would you like to have dinner?

Would you answer my question?

Did you ...? = didja

Did you see him?

Did you buy it?

Do you ...? = dija

Do you play tennis?

Do you eat fish?

Don't you ...? = doncha

Don't you love it?

Don't you understand?

Will you ...? = wilja

Will you come with me?

Will you finish tonight?

Do you want to ...? = diyawanna

Do you want to have fun?

Do you want to eat out?

Are you going to ...? = aryagonna

Are you going to leave?

Are you going to have lunch?

Do you have to ...? = dijahafta

Do you have to stay?

Do you have to work today?

GOTTA AND WANNA

Two of the most common reductions are **gotta** and **wanna**.

Gotta is the reduction of got to. It's rather strange because its use means have to. In other words, in informal American English "I got to get up early." means "I have to get up early." This is then further reduced to "I gotta get up early." Wanna means want to and is used to indicate the desire to do something. For example, "I wanna go home." means "I want to go home." A synonymous expression is also "I would like to go home." However, this form is much more formal.

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