

## Pronunciation and Intonation 🗣️

### The Gemination of /t/

Here, you are going to learn a point about how English is really spoken. But let me ask you a question first. There's an expression in English that means when two people get involved in a fight or argument, in most cases, both have to take some of the responsibility. Do you know the expression?

*"It takes two to tango."*

Lot of 't's in that, right? Five in fact. But are all of these usually pronounced?

*It takes two to tango.*

*It takes two to tango.*

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*It takes two to tango.*

What happens if there is a vowel sound before the /t/? and the next word also begins with /t/? Well, in this case the two /t/ sounds join together to create one slightly stronger /t/. So 'it takes two' becomes 'it takes two'. This is an example of twinning or gemination. Here are some more examples:

*It took him twenty years to get to the top.*

*You don't have to cheat to pass the test.*

*You were right to be upset.*

*We took the overnight train to Venice.*

Now, it's your turn. Repeat the examples aloud a couple of more times:

*It took him twenty years to get to the top.*

*You don't have to cheat to pass the test.*

*You were right to be upset.*

*We took the overnight train to Venice.*

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