

# Does syllable structure really matter?

## The case of postconsonantal yod

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rfp14, 2016-07-02

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  - ▶ reduced when unstressed: Cjə, eg *tenure* ténjə
- nb word-initial *j* may be followed by any vowel:  
*yid* jíd, *yet* jét, *yank* jáŋk, *yacht* jót, *young* jóŋ, etc

# phonotactics of CjV̆ in English: the consonant before

		RP	CuBE	GenAm	EAnglia		
pure	p	j	j	j	∅	} COR	
beauty	b	j	j	j	∅		
few	f	j	j	j	∅		
music	m	j	j	j	∅		
Tuesday	t	j	tʃ	∅	∅		
duke	d	j	ɟ	∅	∅		
new	n	j	j ~ ∅	∅	∅		
thuja	θ	j	j ~ ∅	∅	∅		
lewd	l	j	∅	∅	∅		
assume	s	j	ʃ ~ ∅	∅	∅		
presume	z	j	ʒ ~ ∅	∅	∅		
cashew	ʃ	∅	∅	∅	∅		} PAL
chew	tʃ	∅	∅	∅	∅		
Jew	ɟ	∅	∅	∅	∅		
rule	r	∅	∅	∅	∅		
yew	r	∅	∅	∅	∅		
cube	k	j	j	j	∅		
gue	g	j	j	j	∅		
hue	h	j	j	j	∅		

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nebula	b	j	j	j	∅		
scrofula	f	j	j	j	∅		
communal	m	j	j	j	∅		
botulin, nature	t	j/ʈ	ʈ	ʈ	∅		
module, procedure	d	j/ɖ	ɖ	ɖ	∅		
monument	n	j	j	j	∅		
Matthew	θ	j	j	j	∅		
cellular	l	j	j	j	∅		
insular, pressure	s	j/ʃ	j/ʃ	∅/ʃ	∅		
lazulite, closure	z	j/ʒ	j/ʒ	∅/ʒ	∅		
brochure	ʃ	∅	∅	∅	∅		} PAL
Quechua	ʈ	∅	∅	∅	∅		
injure	ɖ	∅	∅	∅	∅		
virulent	r	j ~ ∅	j ~ ∅	j ~ ∅	∅		
accurate	k	j	j	j	∅		
argument	g	j	j	j	∅		

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*lewd* lɛ́wd vs *value* vɔ́ljɥw

*rule* rúwl vs *ferrule* fé(r)jɥwl

*suit* súwt vs *issue* íʃɥw/ísjɥw/íʃjɥw/\*ísɥw

*nude* n(j)ɛ́wd vs *menu* ménjɥw

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- ▶ some prevocalic C(C)s (cube.elte.hu)

	__ə	__V	ratio
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{tʃ dʒ ʃ ʒ}	6212	14454	43%
{p b f v}	9545	36500	26%
{k g}	6596	21483	31%
{t d s z}	16734	50453	34%

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5. loanwords, eg *banyan*, *canyon*, *cognac*, *fjord*, *piano*, *pinyin*
6. morpheme concatenation, eg *churchyard*, *egg yolk*, *light-year*

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- ▶ ie the speaker “doesn't know” if ténjə (*tenure*) is “underlyingly” ténjur or ténija (or something similar)

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## Cj in English: summary

1. Cj results from

- ▶ vowels merging in ju
- ▶ high vowel gliding

(and compounding and loans — ignored here)

2. j does not occur after rising-sonority clusters

3. j is dispreferred after palatals (in all accents)

4. homorganicity is dispreferred in branching onsets:

pw bw fw tl dl θl are rare, and so are tʃj ɕj ʃj ʒj

⇒ Cj looks like a branching onset (whatever that means)

5. j is more extensively retained before an unstressed vowel

6. HVG is only possible before an unstressed vowel

7. items 5 and 6 are related

⇒ Cj does not look like a branching onset (whatever that means)

⇒ perhaps branching onsets and bogus clusters are the same category...

... and now for something **not** completely different

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**others** ʃɔrɔsja 'frump', also ʃɔrɔsɲa (< Sl ʃreslo), va:sja Russian  
name, zapɔrɔzjɛ city in Ukraine

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# suffixation

	-C	ind3	sub3	poss3		
	p	tʃapja	→	tʃapja	'hit', 'faucet'	
	b	sabja	→	zabja	'cut', 'oat'	
	m	ɲomja	→	ɲomja	'push', 'weed'	
	v	o:vja	→	ta:vja	'protect', 'distance'	
COR	PAL	t	la:cca	la:ɟʃa	ga:cca	'see', 'dam'
		d	aɟʃa	→	paɟʃa	'give', 'bench'
		n	sa:ɲɲa	→	sa:ɲɲa	'pity', 'dray'
		l	ha:ɟja	→	ba:ɟja	'sleep', 'ball'
		ɟ	haɟʃa	→	aɟa*	'leave', 'brain'
		ɲ	ha:ɲɲa	→	la:ɲa	'vomit', 'girl'
		j	va:ɟja	→	ba:ɟja	'scoop', 'charm'
		ʃ	mɔʃʃa	→	kɔʃa	'wash', 'ram'
		ʒ	—	—	rɔʒa	—, 'rye'
		s	ma:ssa	→	a:ssa	'climb', 'ace'
		z	ra:zza	→	ha:za	'shake', 'house'
		r	za:rja	→	za:rja	'lock', 'lock'
		k	rakja	→	bakja	'put', 'buck'
		g	ra:gja	→	magja	'chew', 'seed'

\* exc naɟ ~ naɟʃa 'big'

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- ▶ Hu r<sub>j</sub> vs En r(j) only before unstressed V  
(Hu r is alveolar, En r is postaleolar/palatal)

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how to count syllables?

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## palatalization

**rɔma:n+ja** → **rɔma:ɲja** 'his/her/its Rumanian'  
vs **rɔma:nija** → ?**rɔma:nja**, \***rɔma:ɲja** 'Rumania'  
(cf **εz ròmā:njâ**, \***εz ròmá:njà** 'is this Rumania?'  
vs **εz a mari ròmá:ɲjà** 'is this Mari's Rumanian?')

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