List of Common Reductions

Sample	Reduction	Examples	Notes
and	**'n**	Do you know Nancy **'n** David?	
are	**'r**	My parents **'r** on vacation.	
are you	**Ya**	**Ya** going to the movie? Where **ya** going?	**"Are you"** is reduced only when followed by one or more words. Therefore, it would be incorrect to reduce "How are you" to "How ya," unless it was followed by one or more words, such as, "How are **ya** doing?"
because	**'cause**	I don't like her **'cause** she's mean.	
can	**c'n**	I **c'n** be there in one hour.	
come	**c'm**	**C'm** over to our house at 9:00 p.m.	This reduction does not apply if 'come' falls at the end of a sentence.
could have could not have	**could'a** **couldn'a**	You **could'a** hurt yourself. He **couldn'a** done it.	This also applies to: - should have = **should'a** - shouldn't have = **shouldn'a** - would have = **would'a** - wouldn't have = **wouldn'a**
did you	**didja** or **'dja**	How **didja** do it? How **'dja** do it?	When followed by a word beginning with the letter **e** or **a**, **'dja** is commonly contracted to **'dj'**: Did you eat yet? = **'dj'eat** yet? Did you ask her? = **'dj'ask** 'er?
does she	**Dushi**	**Dushi** speak English?	
don't know	**dunno(*)**	I **dunno** where	

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		you live.	
for	**Fer**	He works **fer** his father.	This also applies to: - forgive = **fergive** - forget = **fergot**
give me	**gimme(*)**	**Gimme** that!	
going to	**gonna(*)** (when followed by a consonant) **gonnu** (when followed by a vowel)	I'm **gonna** give him a present. I'm **gonnu** invite her to my party.	When followed by a vowel, 'going to' is commonly contracted to 'gonnu,' although 'gonna' is also acceptable.
goodbye	**g'bye**	I'll talk to you tomorrow. **G'bye**.	This also applies to: - good night = **g'night**
got to	**gotta(*)** (when followed by a consonant, pronounced 'gadda') **gottu** (when followed by a vowel, pronounced 'goddu')	I **gotta** give him a present. I **gottu** invite her to my party.	When followed by a vowel, 'got to' is commonly contracted to 'gottu,' although 'gotta' is also acceptable.
had better	**Better**	You better leave right now.	
have to	**Hafta**	I **hafta** go home immediately.	Also: (S)he **'hasta'/'hadda'**
he	**'e**	Who is **'e**?	This does not apply if 'he' begins a sentence.
he/she has	**he/she'as**	**He'as** a house at the beach.	
her	**'er**	This is **'er** house.	This does not apply if 'her' begins a sentence.
him	**'im**	I like **'im** a lot.	
his	**'is**	What's **'is** name?	This does apply if 'his' begins a sentence.
how did you	**how'dya**	**How'dya** make	

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	or **how'dja**	that? **How'dja** make that?	
how do you	**how'dy'a**	**How'dy'a** do it?	When pronounced as two syllables, **how'dya**, the tense changes from present to past. Although subtle, this difference is easily detected by any native-born American. - **How'dya** do it? = How did you do it? - **How'dy'a** do it? = How do you do it?
how does	**how's**	**How's** she feel today?	
in front of	**in fronna**	He parked **in fronna** that house.	
-ing	**-in(*)**	I'm **goin'** to the store.	
is that	**Izat**	**Izat** your new car?	Also: **Zat** your new car?
just	**jus'**	**Jus'** get it later.	
leave me	**(*)lee'me**	**Lee'me** alone!	
let me	**lem'me(*)**	**Lem'me** alone!	
of	**a** or **o'(*)**	He's sort**a** strange. It's made **o'** wood.	Although you will occasionally see the conjunction 'of' reduced to **o'**, it is pronounced like **a**. Therefore, "it's made **o'**wood" would be pronounced "it's made **a** wood."
old	**ol'(*)**	There's the **ol'** church.	
or	**'r**	Do you like ice cream **'r** candy?	As you may have noticed, **'r** is a reduction not only of **are**, but of **or** as well. The connotation depends on the context:

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			- Ic'n invite Tom **'r** Peggy = I can invite Tom **or** Peggy. - Tom 'n Peggy **'r** invited. = Tom and Peggy **are** invited.
out of	**outta(*)** (pronounced 'oudda')	Get **outta** here!	Pronounced: Ged **oudda** here!
probably	**prob'ly(*)**	He'll **prob'ly** come for dinner.	
should not have	**shouldn'a**	You **shouldn'a** done that.	
some	**s'm**	Want **s'm** breakfast?	
sure	**sher**	**Sher**, I like chocolate!	A common expression indicating agreement is **For sure!** Pronounced **Fer sher!**
them	**'m / 'em(*)**	I like**'m** a lot. I like**'em** a lot.	
to	**ta**	I don't know what **ta** do now.	1. This applies to any word that begins with the combination **to-** and whose accent does not fall on the first syllable: today, tomorrow, tobacco, etc. Pronounced: **ta**day, **ta**morrow, **ta**bacco. 2. When preceded by a word that ends with an **r** or **o** sound, **to** is commonly pronounced **da**: "I **dunno** where **da** go now."
want to	**wanna(*)** (when followed by a consonant or vowel) **wannu** (when followed by a vowel only)	I **wanna** go outside. I **wanna** eat something. I **wannu** avoid the subject.	**Wanna** may be used either before a consonant or a vowel, whereas **wannu** may only be used before a vowel. It would sound strange to the ear to use **wannu** before a consonant, such as: "I wannu go."
what	**Wud**	**Wud** if we went to	**What** is pronounced **whad**

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		the movies?	only when followed by a vowel.
what are you	**wachya** or **wachu**	**Wachya** doin'? **Wachu** doin'?	This reduction can only occur if it is followed immediately by one or more words. It cannot stand alone: "What are you? Crazy?" It would be incorrect to say: "Wacha? Crazy?"
what did you	**Wudidya** or **Wudjya** or **Wudja**	**Wudidya** buy? **Wudjya** buy? **Wudja** buy?	
what do you	**what cha** or **what chya** or **wuddy'a**	**What cha** doing? **What chya** doing? **Wuddy'a** doing?	When **wuddya** is pronounced as two syllables, **wud'dya**, it becomes past tense. When pronounced as three syllables, **wud'dy'a**, it changes to present tense.
what does	**what's(*)**	**What's** he doing for a living?	Although a common colloquial contraction for 'what does,' **what's** is traditionally a contraction for 'what is.'
what is the	**what's a**	**What's a** matter?	Also: "**Wassa** matta?
would not have	**wudn'a**	I **wudn'a** done that if I were you.	
you	**ya(*)** **ja** (common pronunciation when preceded by the letter **d**) **'y** (common contraction when followed by a vowel)	How are **ya**? Would **ja** like some ice cream? Did **ja** see that? If **y'ever** need me, just call. Did **y'ever** see the movie?	
why did you	**why'd'ya** or **why'dja**	**Why'd'ya** tell him to leave? **Why'dja** tell him to leave?	

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why do you	**why'dy'a**	**Why'dy'a** work so hard?	When **whydya** is pronounced as two syllables, **why'dya**, it becomes past tense. When pronounced as three syllables, **why'dy'a**, it changes to present tense.