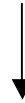


Phonological Alternations (=phonological processes)**Part 2.**4. DELETIONS AND INSERTIONS: Syllable Structure Processes

They result in a simpler syllable or, the preferred syllable structure: CV

a. Deletion:

French:

petit ami [pətit_ami] petit tabloux [pəti tablo]
 nos amis [noz ami] nos tableaux [no tablo]

A WORD-FINAL CONSONANT IS DELETED IF THE FOLLOWING WORD BEGINS WITH A CONSONANT.

le garçon [lə garsɔ̃] l'ami [lami]
 la fille [la fij] l'arbre [larbr]

THE VOWEL OF THE DEFINITE ARTICLE IS DELETED IF THE FOLLOWING WORD STARTS WITH A VOWEL.

b. Insertion (=epenthesis):

Hanunoo (spoken in the Philippines):

ʔupat	<i>four</i>	ʔupati	<i>make it four</i>
ʔunum	<i>six</i>	ʔunumi	<i>make it six</i>
ʔusa	<i>one</i>	ʔusahi	<i>make it one</i>
tulu	<i>three</i>	tuluhi	<i>make it three</i>

THE CONSONANT h IS INSERTED TO BREAK UP A VOWEL CLUSTER.

Latin:

patris	<i>father</i> (Gen.)	<i>pater</i> (Nom.)
agri	<i>field</i> (Gen.)	<i>ager</i> (Nom.)
libri	<i>book</i> (Gen.)	<i>liber</i> (Nom.)

THE VOWEL *e* IS INSERTED TO BREAK UP CONSONANT CLUSTERS WORD-FINALLY.

5. LENITIONS (=weakening) and FORTITIONS (=strengthening)

a. LENITIONS

Syncope: A vowel is deleted word-internally when it occupies a weak position (=unstressed).

Latin	→	French	
populus		peuple	<i>people</i>
tabula		table	<i>table</i>

English:

chocolate, nursery, etc.

Apocope: The loss of a final unstressed vowel (weak position!)

Saami (a Finno-Ugric language):

miäcc <u>e</u> st	<i>in the forest</i>	miäcc <i>forest</i>
koađ <u>e</u> st	<i>in the tent</i>	koađ <i>tent</i>

b. FORTITIONS

Diphthongization: Stressed vowels and tense vowels are strong vowels; they frequently diphthongize.

Latin	→	Italian	
bona		buona	<i>good</i> (Fem.)
nova		nuova	<i>new</i> (Fem.)