

Re: Changes in pronunciation before 'l' in English

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2004-07/3143.html>

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Greg Lee writes:

- > *According to descriptions I've seen, 'l' after the vowel of a syllable*
- > *is velarized. I think it's actually uvularized, at least in my speech.*
- > *At any rate, the dark 'l' does indeed color the preceding vowel. The*
- > *'l' may lose its alveolar articulation and become a uvular glide,*
- > *and then the diphthong formed by the vowel + glide combination*
- > *can monophthongize to a simple, rather hard to describe and*
- > *somewhat disgusting, single vowel. In my speech, 'milk' has*
- > *a diphthong and 'bulk' a simple vowel.*

I don't seem to actually hear an 'l' in my speech, but the vowel seems to change. There's a spectrogram created by that nifty SFS program at

<http://www.mxsmanic.com/walk.jpg>

I hear and see a tiny difference between "talk" and "tock," and between "walk" and "wok," but I don't know if it's significant or exactly what it means. I suppose it means a different vowel? The vowel in talk seems to be closer to 'o' than the vowel in tock.

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Transpose hotmail and mxsmanic in my e-mail address to reach me directly.