

A note On saying 'and' correctly

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When I first met Jack, on summer schools back in the 1960s - he introduced me to what at the time was his favourite drink - rum and coke. When I travelled to other parts of the world, I learned its other names. In Australia, *Rumbo*. In Chile, *Ron-Cola*. In Finland, *Rommikola*. In Brazil, *Cuba Libre* - or *Cuba*, for short. In some places the names were subversive, such as *Mentirita* ('little lie'), for those opposed to the Cuban regime.

I stuck safely to 'rum and coke', and that way learned the importance of *and*-elision in bars. One day I was abroad and asked for this drink, but - being in a noisy bar, and unsure of the barman's level of English, I was in careful-articulation mode. I sounded the request out in full: 'a 'rum /ænd/ coke, please'. The barman gave me two drinks: a glass of rum and a bottle of coke.

The full voicing of the final /d/ must have made it sound like 'and a', I reflected, as I consumed both. Then - purely in order to test a hypothesis, you understand - I tried again, but this time with an elided *and*: 'a rum 'n' coke, please'. I got the right drink.

There is a learned article waiting to be written on the pronunciation of names for alcoholic drinks in noisy bars. For all I know, Jack has already written one - or shortly will, for the passing of 90 is simply another opportunity for him to add to what has been a magnificent contribution to phonetics over the years.

Happy Birthday, Jack!

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