

Rhythm

A. Each language has its own rules for rhythm. Clear English speech depends on the way varying lengths of syllables produce a characteristic rhythm. You will be much easier to understand if you use a proper English rhythm.

Syllable rhythm rules:

1. Clear vowels are full (long).

Unclear vowels are reduced (short).

2 Vowels in succession are usually of different length.

a.	· _____ mama	· _____ banana	· _____ Alaska	· _____ Nebraska
b.	· _____ a basket	· _____ the record		
c.	_____ absolute	_____ Have some fruit.	_____ impossible	_____ It's possible.
d.	· _____ above	· _____ along	· _____ around	

3 When two or more full vowels are spoken in succession, length is added to each vowel. This makes the speech sound emphatic (strong).

a.	<u> </u> <u> </u> passport	<u> </u> <u> </u> mailbox	<u> </u> <u> </u> airport	<u> </u> <u> </u> maintain
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B. Listen to the following limerick to practice rhythm.

A STUdent was SENT to TaCOma

InTENding to EARN a diPLOma

He SAID, "With the RAIN,

I don't WANT to reMAIN,

I THINK I'd preFER OklaHOma."

C. In the following sentences, the last three words are dramatically slowed down because there are three vowels in succession. Practice saying them.

1. Give me your permission to go right now.
2. We're all very proud of that fine young man.
3. The government intends to stop all drugs.

D. Practice the rhythm of the following words.

3 syllables

4 syllables

5 syllables

6 syllables

8 syllables

reduction

opposition

administration

identification

internationalization

suggestion

obligation

examination

reinterpretation

correction

registration

simplification

reunification

intention

dedication

clarification

reexamination

frustration

interaction

justification

rejustification

E. Practice these sentences.

1. There's been a reduction.
2. She made a suggestion.
3. There's a lot of opposition.
4. How high are the prices?
5. A passport shows identification.