

Improving Oral Resonance

Objectives:

The two chief objectives relating to oral resonance are [1] the careful adjustment of the articulators to ensure proper molding and shaping of the tone, and [2] openness and freedom of the oral and pharyngeal passageways to provide for amplification. Of course, the two are very closely related; it is always helpful to think of the speech "megaphone".

Instructions:

1. Repeat the phrase, "we are, too," a number of times, making the position of the lips in the careful formation of the three different vowels. Repeat it rapidly as a drill, exaggerating the action of the lips.
2. Sing [ho] several times on a comfortable pitch, prolonging the vowel. Observe that [o] is a round vowel; note the position of the lips. Think of shaping the tone into the vowel sound. Work to project the tone out of the mouth, keeping the throat open. Try the same technique with the words home and who.
3. Repeat Exercise 2, using a number of different vowels with several oral consonants, such as [p], [b], and [d].
4. For achieving "frontal placement," sing the vowels [I] - [a] a number of times merging the first carefully into the second. Vary this drill, using [mi]- [a].
5. The following sentences contain no nasal sounds. Check carefully to guard against nasalization on any of the sounds. Open your mouth well and work for oral resonance.
 - a) Who are you? (Vary the emphasis on each word).
 - b) How are you? (Vary the emphasis as above).
 - c) How do you do? (Vary the emphasis as above).
 - d) This is a beautiful day.
 - e) We are all very well.
6. Read the following, rounding out the vowel tones very carefully with a relaxed and open throat. Pay careful attention to lip action to ensure ample oral resonance.