

40. ARTICULATION DRILLS

GOAL:

To promote clear speech.

METHOD:

- Every language has its “tongue-twisters.” The following are some of the favorites in English:

Toy boat

Red leather, yellow leather

Rubber baby buggy bumpers

The lips, the tongue, and the teeth

Repeating one of these phrases over and over again, with increasing speed and with an attempt to keep every sound separate and correct, can improve articulation.

- Longer drills also exist.

For example, this British one: *“What a ‘to do’ to die today at a minute or two to two. A thing distinctly hard to say, and harder still to do is to beat a tattoo at twenty to two with a rat-tat-tat-tat-tat-too at two, and the dragon will come when he hears the drum, at a minute or two to two today, at a minute or two to two.”*

Don’t ask what it means, just say it fast!

41. EMPHASIS DRILLS

GOAL:

To help students give particular words special emphasis.

METHOD:

- Encourage students to read aloud selections from poetry that require special emphasis and feeling.
- Encourage students to vary pitch, rate, and inflection in order to convey the meaning and importance of various phrases. Also ask students to underline key words and phrases that should receive special stress.
- In addition to using poetry, you can ask students to read aloud their own or someone else’s speeches. Ask them to underline key words in the text and to indicate where a pause might be effective.