Music to Their Ears:
4 Ways to Enhance Your English

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Why “music to their ears?”

The musicality of Spanish and English differ:

- **Rhythm**
- **Intonation**
Why does musicality matter?

- Feelings and Perceptions
- Clarity and Comprehensibility
- Increased Confidence (listener and speaker)
- Positive and more successful exchange
Teaching Methodology

✓ Learning by doing

✓ Accessing kinesthetic imagination

✓ Embodying the Language → Confidence

✓ Fun & Play & Creative Challenge → Positive Learning outcomes

Embodying ENGLISH through movement
Difference in rhythm

In Spanish, every syllable has more or less equal emphasis.

In English, some syllables and words are strong and others are weak.
What “music” do you hear?

This must be done by noon.

THIS must be DONE by NOON.
4 Ways to enhance the rhythm and intonation of your English:

✓ Lengthening vowels
✓ Stressing key words
✓ Reducing unimportant words
✓ Playing with the rising/falling intonation
3 qualities to our speech:

✓ PITCH
✓ SPEED
✓ VOLUME

= Vocal Variation
or “music to their ears”
3 qualities to our speech:

English has 3 pitches:

Let’s play around with RANGE:

EEEEEEE—AHHHHHH—OOOOOO

1. PITCH
3 qualities to our speech

Important or “key” words are lengthened (said slowly)

Unessential syllables or words are shortened (said fast)

To DAY

The rePORT is DUE toMORrow.
3 qualities to our speech

3. Volume

**MAN a ger**
loud soft soft

**fa cil i TA tion**
soft soft soft loud soft
Lengthening Vowels

One-Syllable Words

EA\text{t} \quad hO\text{t}
mAn \quad dEsk
gO \quad lO\text{ve}

Multi-Syllabic Words

fill-OUT \quad com\text{PUter}
underSTAND \quad fanTASTic
com\text{PLETE} \quad di\text{RECtor}
Lengthening Vowels

REMEMBER 3 Qualities for “musicality” of English:

**Pitch**
- low, medium, high

**Volume**
- soft to loud

**Speed**
- slow to fast

PRACTICE with these compound nouns:

- BOOKstore
- KEYboard
- SOFTWARE
- MOUSEpad
- WHITEboard
- MAILbox
- FOOTball
- HEALTH care
- RUSH hour
- WEBsite
- DESKtop
- FLASH drive
- CELL phone
- LAWSuit
Stressing **Key Words**

I love At\L\A\N\N\a. (the city)

I **LOVE** Atlanta. (not hate)

I love Atlanta. (me)
Reducing unimportant words

TWInkle TWInkle LITtle STAR.
LET me HELP you PAY the FEE.
DON’T forGET the EGGS and MILK.
TELL me WHY you DON’T aGREE.

Example from Linda Grant’s Well Said
Playing with rising and falling intonation

Use rising/falling intonation instatements and WH-questions.

It’s a BEAUtiful day!

How can I HELP you?
Playing with rising and falling intonation

Use rising intonation instatements with YES/NO questions.

May I HELP you?

Would you like to speak with the MANager?
Embodying English, saying YES, and…

Let’s use the MUSICALITY of ENGLISH (remember pitch, speed, volume) to play “YES, and…”

**Speaker 1:** Let’s sign the contract today!

**Speaker 2:** Yes, and let’s ask for the highest price!

**Speaker 1:** Yes, and we will hire 50 new employees!

**Speaker 2:** Great, let’s go celebrate!

**Speaker 1:** Yes, and let’s bring the entire office!

**Speaker 2:** Fantastic, let’s invite our families, too!
YES, and...

Now, it’s your turn to make up your own conversation using the “musicality” of English!

Choose from one of these topics:

- Let’s have a party!
- Let’s start a new business!
Thank You!

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Questions?

Want to improve your ENGLISH fluency?
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Access your kinesthetic imagination and have fun learning English.