

# DICTION EXERCISES

Good Diction:

1. On the breath – Side Accents with rib suspension – remember: the jaw is a poor substitute for no air! Diction is how we check our connection and keep it flowing. (SA muscles: clear the throat)
2. Correct articulator. Learn to strengthen and isolate each articulator!

**LIPS**

**B, P, M, W**

Instructions: Keep jaw relaxed and open. Wrap lips around teeth, use side accents. Build up air behind closed lips, and they explode open as the air builds behind them.

**TIP OF TONGUE**

**L, N, D, T**

Instructions: Keep jaw relaxed and immobile. ONLY tip of tongue moves with support from side accents.

**BACK OF TONGUE**

**K, G, Y, R**

Instructions: Keep jaw relaxed and immobile. ONLY back of tongue moves with support from side accents.

**LOWER LIP AND TOP TEETH**

**F, V**

Instructions: Keep jaw relaxed and immobile. ONLY lower lip moves up to contact teeth. Air builds up behind lip and explodes through using side accents to support.

**TEETH (JAW):**

**S, J, Z, SH, CH, DJ, DZ**

Instructions: Jaw closes as teeth come together. Explodes open back to relaxed state. Does not hold any tension after consonant has been made.

**BREATH:**

**H**

Instructions: Relaxed and open throat and jaw. Use side accents.

NOTES: While singing a musical phrase, all side accents to support consonants are used in an “accented legato” fashion. Keeping the underlying breath unbroken or diminished and the ribs expanding outward.

Jaw: when diction exercises are spoken, jaw does not move. When singing, jaw drops for different ranges and vowels.

VOCALISES:

1. Never Know (5342312drop1/1)
2. Tooth Deep Cease (123454321)
3. Aluminum Linoleum (123454321)
4. We We We We (Octave Arpeggio down)
5. Long or Short Scale Inserting any Consonant or Vowel Combination w/ classical resonance