

Using the Practice Materials

Cueing, like any other manual skill, requires lots and lots of practice. To help you out, we've provided lists of words organized by handshape and placement so that you can develop your skills systematically. If you are using the *Art of Cueing* web page, or taking a class based on the Gallaudet curriculum, or learning from Dr. Cornett's videotapes, you will find the word lists are further arranged progressively, each one using only the cues that have already been learned. Of course, practice can often be boring, so we have included some sample activities below that we hope will make the lists more useful and your practice sessions more interesting.

Transformation

Start with a word from the list; cue it. Change one phoneme transforming the word into another word and cue that. Score one point for each successful change. Pluralizing, or changing a verb tense does not count. Can be played alone, with a partner, or in groups.

Evolution

Make a short sentence with a word from the list; cue it. Add one more word making a new, grammatically correct sentence and cue it. Score one point for each successful addition. Can also be played alone or in groups.

Countdown

Requires a stopwatch. Stick with one list for a week. Start at the top and cue each word as quickly as you can without sacrificing accuracy or good form. Use a stopwatch to time yourself and chart your improvement. Choose another list the next week.

Echo

Requires a partner. Choose a random list. Cue a word without voicing (but keep those lips moving) and have your partner repeat back what you cued. If the "echo" doesn't match what you cued, recue (perhaps going slower or making clearer facial movements) until it does. As you get better, use the word from the list to make up a sentence to cue. When finished, switch roles with your partner.

On Pronunciations

Many words have different pronunciations in different areas of the country. Unfortunately, we are not able to reflect these variations in dialect in the pronunciations provided in the word lists, so please take them with a grain of salt. Remember, you should cue words the way *you* say them. We can give you a few things to look for based on our own experience. New Yorkers often /aw/ where a New Englander would use /oe/ -- /m aw r/ vs /m oe r/, in *more* for example. People from the mid-south can stretch some words into two syllables whereas those from the north might only use one -- /f ie ur/ vs /f ie r/ for *fire*. Syllables with no stress can often have any "short" vowel inserted; people in the east would say *defend* as /di fe n d/ while midwesterners are more likely to say /duh fe n d/. Keep your ears open and do mark up your word lists with your pronunciations.