

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE VOWEL – well, mostly!

VOWELS:

- Working unit of barbershop and a cappella singing
- Carry the sound
- Must be uniformly produced
- Must be correctly pronounced according to American English (in BBS)
- Chords *ring* on vowels!

TARGET VOWEL REPLACEMENTS:

EE - eed	EH - ed	A - add	IH - id
AH - odd	AW - awed	UH - ugh	UR - urge
OH - ode	OO - ood	OO - ud (look)	

DIPHTHONGS:

- Are a combination of vowel sounds
- Stress is usually on the first part of the vowel (except U)
- Aim for target vowel
- Sing secondary vowel in the same singing space as the primary vowel
- Word sounds must be turned together
- May be used to add artistry

DIPHTHONGS:

AY = eh-ee (late, say)	OH = oh-oo (go, boat)
OW = ah-oo (now, out)	OY = oh-ee (joy, point)
I = ah-ee (high, my)	U = ee-oo (mute, few)

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES:

- W = oo + next vowel (why, what, wet)
 Y = ee + next vowel (yes, yam, you)

VOWEL MATCHING:

We sit let late Hat high spot love
 Girl moon mute look Go law joy now

Tenor Lead

Bari Bass

CONSONANTS:

- Can be used to convey the emotion
- Might be considered the punctuation
- Must be articulated enough to understand the lyrics, but not to the degree that tone flow is interrupted
- Can add style, artistry, meaning to a performance

SINGABLE CONSONANTS:

- M N NG R L V TH Z ZH
- Use at the END of words
- Should not interfere with the target vowel
- Sing with same intensity of target vowel
- Help with word clarity
- May convey emotion
- May be used to add artistry

“R” AFFECTED VOWELS:

- Stay true to the target vowel
- Keep singing space in the target vowel space
- Don't migrate to the “r” too soon
- Examples:
 - o Near, heart, door All, hold, will

WE RING CHORDS ON VOWELS!!