

Stretched Speech

Stretched Speech, like Slow Stretched Speech, involves prolonging syllables and thereby decreases the force and acceleration of speech muscle movements.

Again, this improves the coordination of the respiratory, phonatory, and articulatory systems (Kully & Boberg, 1991; Perkins, 1992; Ramig & Dodge, 2005; Wall & Myers, 1995).



Whereas Slow Stretched Speech required students to prolong each syllable for two seconds, Stretched Speech increases that rate to approximately one second per syllable. Thus, Smooth Movement, Easy Voice, and Light Contact skills are used more quickly. Students must therefore produce these fluency-enhancing strategies with a greater level of sophistication.

While this new speed marks an initial step toward a more natural speaking rate, Stretched Speech is still noticeably prolonged and students are still producing one syllable at a time. That is, each monosyllabic word is initiated with a new Relaxed Breath. Polysyllabic words are broken into separate syllables, and again, each syllable starts with a new breath.

Stretched Speech can be taught in the following way:

1. Explain the rationale (described above and on page 43 of the Student Workbook).
2. Guide students through steps 1–2 of “Using Stretched Speech” (see page 44 of the Student Workbook).
 - » As you model the Smooth Movement, Easy Voice, and Light Contact Words, recall that these one-syllable words should be prolonged for about one second.
 - » The first stretchable sound is stretched for the first half second, and the remaining stretchable sounds in the word are stretched for the second half second.

A/V Resources for Stretched Speech

Audio Files

[Track 2.1](#): Stretched Speech [0:53]

[Track 2.2](#): Using Stretched Speech [0:29]

[Track 2.3](#): Smooth Movement Words read at Stretched [4:50]

[Track 2.4](#): Easy Voice Words read at Stretched Speech [1:54]

[Track 2.5](#): Light Contact Words read at Stretched Speech [5:33]

Video Files

[v42](#) Therapist Instruction [0:52]

[v43](#) Student Example #1: Smooth Movement Words [2:17]

[v41](#) Student Example #2: Light Contact Words [2:19]

Go directly to [the next chapter](#)

Return to the [Table of Contents](#)