

Indicators of Clarity Problems



- Words are indistinct
- Diction poor
- Too “mushy” – old-fashioned “smooth”
- Sound stays back in the mouth or throat
- In tune but not ringing due to placement
- OVER-produced sounds
- Too much jaw movement, lip tension
- Tongue pulled back, depressed or arched

Tools to Fix Clarity Problems



- Relax the jaw don't DROP the jaw
- Use speech-like delivery
- Speak-Sing (speak 3 times then sing)
- Use consonants and keep the air moving through them

Indicators of Connected Sound/Air Flow Problems



- Words/syllables choppy, detached
- Vocal line lacks forward motion/energy
- Not enough air moving through the voice
- Phrase endings drop off
- Words are clear but lack connection
- Need to use more air

Tools to Fix Connected Sound/Air Flow Problems



- Upper hand breathing
- Bubbling
- Toy boat
- Less jaw movement

Indicators of Lift/Space/Spin Problems



- Some under-pitch singing
- Not enough space, upper notes sound jammed
- “Lid” on the sound
- Scooping at onset
- Unprepared to start
- Tuning issues
- Pitch/Space spirals down on sustained notes
- Lazy sound

Tools to Fix Lift/Space/Spin Problems



- Relaxed, noiseless breath
- Breathe down the back of the throat
- Breathe through the hinge of the jaw
- Breathe above the note
- Tornado
- Inverted cone of freedom
- No dumping zone
- Prepare and maintain space

Indicators of Width/Resonance Problems



- Voice is thin, weak, brittle sounding
- Voice is strong but sounds piercing
- Has an edge to it
- Voice could stick out of the ensemble
- Needs more dimension to fill out sound
- Sounds incomplete

Tools to Fix Width/Resonance Problems



- Sing to your neighbor
- 3-D singing
- Keep the floor and ceiling in the sound
- “Butt singing” (credited to Erin Howden)
- Guitar tone hole exercise
- Relax the throat
- Bubbling