

# PHONETICS

## STEP 1 – LISTEN & HIGHLIGHT THE STRESSED WORDS

**Instructions:** Listen to these extracts. While listening, highlight or click the words you hear as stressed (stronger and clearer).

### A. Castle on the Hill – Ed Sheeran

I found my heart and broke it here  
Made friends and lost them through the years

I'm on my way  
Driving at ninety down those country lanes

### B. Take Me Home, Country Roads – John Denver

Almost heaven, West Virginia  
Blue Ridge Mountains, Shenandoah River

Country roads, take me home To the place I  
belong

**Tip:** Content words (nouns, main verbs, adjectives, adverbs) are usually stressed. Function words (articles, prepositions, auxiliaries) are usually not.

## STEP 2 – SPEAK THE LINES WITH THE RIGHT RHYTHM

**Task:** Listen to the whole songs and highlight the stressed words in the lyrics below. Castle on the

Hill, Ed Sheeran :

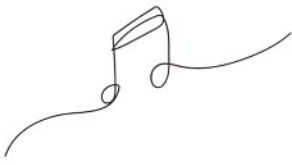
When I was six years old I broke my leg  
I was running from my brother and his friends  
And tasted the sweet perfume of the mountain grass I rolled down  
I was younger then, take me back to when I

Found my heart and broke it here  
Made friends and lost them through the years  
And I've not seen the roaring fields in so long, I know I've grown  
But I can't wait to go home

I'm on my way  
Driving at 90 down those country lanes Singing to  
"Tiny Dancer"  
And I miss the way you make me feel, and it's real We  
watched the sunset over the castle on the hill

Fifteen years old and smoking hand-rolled cigarettes  
Running from the law through the backfields and getting drunk with my friends





Had my first kiss on a Friday night, I don't reckon that I did it right But  
I was younger then, take me back to when

We found weekend jobs, when we got paid We'd  
buy cheap spirits and drink them straight  
Me and my friends have not thrown up in so long, oh how we've grown  
But I can't wait to go home

#### CHORUS

One friend left to sell clothes One  
works down by the coast One had two  
kids but lives alone One's brother  
overdosed  
One's already on his second wife One's just  
barely getting by  
But these people raised me And I can't  
wait to go home

And I'm on my way, I still remember Those  
old country lanes  
When we did not know the answers  
And I miss the way you make me feel, it's real We  
watched the sunset over the castle on the hill Over  
the castle on the hill  
Over the castle on the hill.

#### Take Me Home, Country Roads, John Denvers :

Almost Heaven, West Virginia  
Blue Ridge Mountains, Shenandoah River Life is  
old there, older than the trees  
Younger than the mountains, growin' like a breeze

Country roads, take me home To the  
place I belong  
West Virginia, mountain mama Take  
me home, country roads

All my memories gather 'round her Miner's  
lady, stranger to blue water Dark and  
dusty, painted on the sky  
Misty taste of moonshine, teardrop in my eye

#### CHORUS

I hear her voice in the mornin' hour, she calls me The  
radio reminds me of my home far away Drivin' down  
the road, I get a feelin'  
That I should've been home yesterday, yesterday

#### CHORUS

- Practise saying the lyrics aloud with a partner. You can clap or tap the beat as you speak.





### STEP 3 – CHANT THE LYRICS

Chant or rap the lyrics using a steady beat (your teacher may provide a metronome or instrumental background).

### STEP 4 – REFLECT & COMPARE

#### Discussion Questions:

- How is English rhythm different from French?
- What does it mean that English is "stress-timed"?
- How does this affect the way you speak or sing in English?

**Key Idea:** *English rhythm is based on stressed syllables. French gives nearly equal time to each syllable. This creates very different musicality!*

### STEP 5 : SING YOUR VERSE

Practise with the verse you have written earlier. Write it down and highlight the words you think are stressed. Check with your teacher and then practise saying it with the right stress pattern.

