

20. Sound-Loaded Paragraphs

The following paragraphs are designed to focus on specific North American English vowel and consonant sounds, as well as stress and intonation patterns. Apply your understanding and knowledge of the rules previously covered in this workbook. Remember to speak slowly, follow punctuation and phrasing, and replenish breaths at commas and periods. The stories are fictitious and references to actual names, places, and situations are coincidental. Read the following paragraphs aloud, making your speech sound as fluent and natural as possible.

2 of 29
different
sound-
loaded
paragraphs

/f/ Paragraph

/f/

Peter Filbert arrived at the Franklin Medical Center after he fell in his front foyer on Friday, February 14th, around 5:30 p.m. Fortunately, his wife, Phyllis, found him immediately after he fell and hit his head. His forehead was bleeding profusely. She lifted him up by herself and applied a folded pink towel to his forehead. Mrs. Filbert frantically phoned 911 and was instructed to wait for the ambulance. Mr. Filbert felt nauseous during the ride and Phyllis fought back tears as she fearfully watched the EMTs administer First Aid. Once they arrived at the hospital, the physical examination revealed that Mr. Filbert was unable to focus his eyes, his pupils were dilated, and he appeared confused. He received fifteen stitches and was given pain medication. Finally, Mr. Filbert was able to walk by himself and he returned home with his wife. He was instructed to phone his doctor if he had any other problems in the future. (45)

/h/ Paragraph

/h/

Henry Harris, a healthy forty-eight year old male was in a hurry to see Dr. Hedges at Johns Hopkins Health Clinic. Mr. Harris hadn't eaten or had anything to drink since early this morning after he had over-exerted himself playing hockey. He was absolutely exhausted after two hours of playing. He had had heart palpitations, heavy breathing, and felt light-headed at the hockey rink. Even though he didn't have a history of heart disease, he had heard that this might be a sign of an impending heart attack so he decided to head over to the hospital. After Dr. Hedges listened to his heart, he sent Henry to have an EEG. Dr. Hedges told Henry that he was quite dehydrated and this was likely the cause of his heavy breathing. Although his heart was fine, he did advise Henry to take it easy when playing hockey and to be sure to hydrate himself regularly before, during, and after the game. He suggested that he might want to consider a less strenuous hobby such as horticulture. (55)

Answer
Keys at
the end
of the
unit

Answer Keys

/f/ Paragraph

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