

Phonetics and intonation

Extract from Obama's victory speech in Chicago, Nov.4th, 2008

1. Circle the stressed syllable in the *italicized* words.
2. Put a / sign whenever Obama pauses.
3. Underline the words he emphasizes

Hello *Chicago!*

If there is anyone out there who still doubts that *America* is a place where all things are *possible*; who still wonders if the dream of our *founders* is *alive* in our time; who still *questions* the power of our *democracy*, tonight is your answer.

It's the answer told by lines that stretched around schools and *churches* in numbers this nation has never seen; by people who *waited* three hours and four hours, many for the very first time in their lives, because they *believed* that this time must be *different*; that their voice could be that difference.

It's the answer *spoken* by young and old, rich and poor, *Democrat* and *Republican*, black, white, *Hispanic*, Asian, *Native American*, gay, straight, *disabled* and not disabled — Americans who sent a *message* to the world that we have never been a *collection* of red states and blue states; we are, and always will be, the *United States* of America.

It's the answer that led those who have been told for so long by so many to be *cynical*, and *fearful*, and *doubtful* of what we can *achieve* to put their hands on the arc of *history* and bend it once more toward the hope of a better day.

It's been a long time *coming*, but tonight, because of what we did on this day, in this *election*, at this *defining* moment, change has come to America.

4. Make a list of the words you've circled. What are the rules you can deduce?
5. Learn the speech by heart, respecting rhythm and intonation, with the help of the video to be found here : <http://edition.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/11/04/election.president/index.html#cnnSTCVideo>