

The Rhythm of English: Stressed and Reduced Words

Directions: Show the students the sentences and have them predict which sentence in each group takes more time to say. (One option is to have students count syllables with partners before predicting.) Then, explain that all of the sentences take the same amount of time to say. Students clap along to the beat as they practice sentence stress and rhythm. For extra fun and practice, encourage students to make their own sets.

X

Mice

The **mice**

The **mice**

The **mice**

The **mice**

X

eat

eat

will **eat**

will have **eaten**

will have been **eating**

X

cheese

the **cheese**

the **cheese**

the **cheese**

the **cheese**

Men

Women

The **women**

The **women**

drive

are **driving**

are **driving**

will have **driven**

cars

racecars

the **racecars**

the **racecars**

Kids

The **kids**

The **grandkids**

The **grandkids**

play

play

play

are **playing**

games

the **games**

the **board** games

the **board** games