OBJECTIVES
● To practice vocal expression and emphasis.
● To develop effective delivery skills.

EXPLANATION
Although words convey meaning, the particular meanings of words come from their use and their expression. People give meaning to words as they speak them. Using the same words, you can change the meaning by just emphasizing different words.

INSTRUCTIONS
In the following example, the italicized word connotes a different meaning. Practice reading the sentences aloud and emphasize the italicized word.

John is taking me to the dance. (John, not Sam)
John is taking me to the dance. (He is definitely taking me)
John is taking me to the dance. (He is paying for everything)
John is taking me to the dance. (I can't believe it, he chose me)
John is taking me to the dance. (He’s dropping me off)
John is taking me to the dance. (The only dance this year, how exciting)
John is taking me to the dance. (Not the movie)

When a speaker puts vocal emphasis on different words, it will convey a different meaning than if the sentence spoken were simply read off a page. The speaker can change how their message is perceived by emphasizing different words in a statement as demonstrated above.