

Clipping

1. Divide the following words into groups according to the vowel of their stressed syllable. Sort the words within each group into descending order of probable duration of that vowel. (Remember that pre-fortis clipping has a more powerful effect than rhythmic clipping.)

bitterly, blow, boot, browsed, faded, fake, fame, fatal, fatally, fist, food, grid, gross, hooter, louder, meaty, moody, mouth, odours, openly, outing, seats, seeds, vivid, weedy.

2. Explain clearly why the stressed vowel of *teacher* is classified as "long", and often transcribed with length marks, even though when said aloud by an RP speaker it seems really rather short.