

Lists

Each item in a list should be a separate image from the other items. You can achieve this by altering the pitch of your voice.



We bought *apples*, *grapes*, *pears*, and *oranges*.

Avoid Emphasizing These**

- Articles – a, an, the
- Conjunctions – and, but, or
- Negative words – no, not
- Verbs of being – am, is, was, shall
- Pronouns – he, her, it, they

** There are always exceptions – if a pronoun is representing the subject or object of a sentence, for example, or if a negative word is a part of antithesis, etc. Sometimes a really specific area of voiceover has certain conventions that are different from other forms of acting, such as emphasizing conjunctions for commercial reads.


Images and Breath

Always be careful to sustain energy so that you can finish strong and avoid trailing off at the end of a sentence. Once you identify the images in your text, you can identify and mark places to take a breath in between those images. Never interrupt an image with a breath – it will be disruptive and make the image unclear.

Other Quirks

Adjectives and adverbs should be treated as part of the word they are modifying and incorporated into that image.

When words are repeated in a section of the text for contrast, the repeated word becomes less important to the image than the new image/word it is being contrasted with.



Roger's favorite color was **red**. Normally he wore red *shoes*, a red *shirt*, and a red *jacket*. **Today**, though, his shirt was **blue**.

Helpful Texts

- *Rex Barks* by Phyllis Davenport and Lisa Vandamme, ISBN 9781889439358
- *Speaking Shakespeare* by Patsy Rodenburg, ISBN 9781403965400