

# *A Sampling of Speech Sound Etudes* by Kate Reese Hurd

From the report  
*The Speech Sound Etudes: Feeling the Gestures  
and Finding the Figures*

## **PART FOUR: THE SPEECH SOUND ETUDES**

### **Etudes for the twenty Figures: A sampling**

Here is a selection from the *Speech Sound Etudes, Volume I*, one for each of the twenty Figures. The phonetic letter forms that I use some of which are from the American Heritage Dictionary. (I have added ǎ, ǎi, ōu and ũ.)

#### **Vowel Etudes:**

- ǎ** Ah! Skalds watch Nanna's wan swan squads waft.  
(skald – medieval Scandinavian poet; Nanna – god of the full moon)
- é** Bathed, fey-babes brayed: “Hey hey! Say nay! Stay ‘way!” (fey – fairylike)
- i** Pete's breezy heath bees streak freely – he's pleased!
- o** So: bonobos chose soaked poached rolled oat groats.  
(bonobo – a friendly type of ape)
- u** Sleuth Luke snoops tomb room gloom; Zulu spooks flew through – Oooo!

#### **Consonant Etudes:**

- B** Bold bears bang bins of balls, basins, buckets ‘n barrels of baubles ‘n bells.
- kh** Hugh's humongous hubris humoresque humiliates humans humanely in humid Houston. Ach!
- D** Dim dew-dots dapple dusky dank dales.
- F** Foaming fountains fascinate funny feminine fairies.
- G** Goofy guppies gobble gulps of gooey gummy gooky gunk. (gooky – pronounced as in ‘hooky’)
- H** Help! Heavy hail hammers hillside huts hard!
- K** Capable Celts cut copper-colored caps ‘n cowed coats of cotton.

- L** Large lobsters lurk and linger along low ledges.
- M** Misty moonlit mizzle makes marvelous moss mounds moist.
- N** Neat nimble Naiad nymphs need nifty nests.  
(Naiad - nǎi-ǎd – nymphs preside over brooks, springs and fountains in Greek mythology)
- P** Powerful pops ‘n pings petrify puzzled panicky ponies.
- R** Reckless rats run rampant racing ‘round rocky rubble.
- S** Soft silky seals sink and surface silently.
- T** Tentative turtles tiptoe to tall turreted towers.
- V** Virile vengeful Visigoths vanquish invading Vinland Viking vandals.

#### **The other sounds I have been working with are:**

**Vowels:** *ô* – awe *ōu* – ouch *ǒ* – sock *ǎ* – cap  
*è* – get *ĩ* – zip *ǎi* – nine, kite (long, short) *oi* – toy  
*ə/ũ* – above *oo* – look *ũ* – her *iu* – few *ui* – sweet

**Consonants:** *C* – certain *J* – jiggle *zh* – Asia  
*ng* – sing *nasal* *N* – bonbon *Q* – queen *sh* – shy  
*glottal t* – kitt'n *ts* – tsar *ch* – chew *th* – thank  
*th* – the *W* – water *wh* – why *X/ks* – axe  
*X/gz* – exist *Y* – yes *Z* – zany *dz* – kudzu

#### **A Set of Speech Sound Etudes for B**

(with rhythmic markings)

- B** Boiling buckbean <sup>x</sup>bubbles billow ‘n burst!  
<sup>x</sup>Bulls <sup>x</sup>buck, bothered by bunches of busy  
buoyant <sup>x</sup>·bouncing bullfrogs.  
<sup>x</sup>Bold <sup>x</sup>·bears bang <sup>x</sup>·bins of balls, basins,  
buckets ‘n barrels of baubles ‘n bells.  
Burly butchers beat back <sup>~</sup>bombastic bullies  
with boomerangs ‘n barbed bayonets  
in barren boulevard battlefields., Boom!

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*by R*

(English)

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**A set of speech Sound Etudes for B** (with rhythmic markings)

**B** Boiling buckbean x~bubbles billow ‘n burst!

xBulls xback, bothered by bunches of busy  
buoyant x~bouncing bullfrogs.

x-Bold x~bears bang x~bins of balls, basins,  
buckets ‘n barrels of baubles ‘n bells.

Burly butchers beat back ~bombastic bullies  
with boomerangs ‘n barbed bayonets  
in barren boulevard battlefields,.. Boom!

Rudolf Steiner:

“... So this is