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
X
drive
are driving
are driving
will have driven
X
cars
racecars
the racecars
the racecars

Kids
The kids
The grandkids
The grandkids
X
play
play
play
are playing
X
games
the games
the board games
the board games

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