The people who designed these handouts invested a lot of time and creativity in putting them together. They may be used within Region 31 for educational purposes but if you wish to use them as a teaching aid in another region or another musical organisation, please contact the author to obtain permission.

VOWELS & DIPHTHONGS

There are 5 basic vowels, which must match to create a clean, crisp, clear, ringing sound.

FIVE BASIC VOWELS	90%	10%
E	**(think IH)**	
A	**EH**	**EE**
I	**AH**	**EE**
O	**OH**	**OO**
	10%	**90%**
U	**EE**	**OO**
YOU	**EE**	**OO**
YOUR	**(POOR)**	

- Vowels that are not matched cause the chord to sound out of tune, *even if all the correct notes are being sung!*
- Leads have the responsibility of setting the vowel sound.
- Basses have the responsibility of tuning.
- Harmony parts (tenors, baritones, and basses) have the responsibility of matching the lead vowel.
- When vowels are properly matched, the barbershop chord will ring, (i.e., audible overtones will be produced).
- Vowels are matched through changing placement within the mouth, i.e., through lip formation, tongue placement, raised soft palate.
  Feel placement change in mouth…..**ee-ay-ah-oh-oo**