1  Vowels
   * produced differently than consonants
   * open, unobstructed sounds
   * all made with in essentially the same way
   * tongue is primary articulator
   * differences depend on variations in shape of oral cavity

2  Vowel Production
   * say me, may, mad
   * reference point: physiological rest
   * vowels classified in relation to tongue position
   * tongue height: high, low, mid
   * tongue advancement: front to back
   * secondary characteristic: lip rounding and tension

3  How it works
   * where and how your tongue is in your mouth determines the shape of the oral cavity
   * as airflows through, oral cavity resonates
   * when tongue position is changed, the size and shape of the oral cavity is changed
   * with change in oral resonance, different vowels are produced
   * resonance secondarily modified by “exit”

4  Classification of Vowels
   * based on combination of tongue height, tongue advancement and lip rounding
   * two types
      * monothongs
      * diphthongs

5  Summary
   * result from resonance of oral cavity
   * production
      * mandible movement
      * tongue position
      * tongue tension
      * lip rounding

6  Descriptors (See Figure 4.1)
   * high, mid low - tongue height
   * front central back - tongue advancement
   * tense/lax
   * rounded/unrounded - lips

7  Importance of vowels
vowels function as nuclei of syllable; every syllable must have a vowel
determiner of voice quality
major determiner of dialect
all are vocalic - produced with unrestricted airflow