



# Use Of Voice Knowledge Organiser



## What? (Definition)

**Use of Voice** refers to how actors manipulate their vocal instrument to create a character, convey meaning, express emotion, and communicate effectively with an audience.

It encompasses a range of techniques that go beyond simply speaking lines, shaping the audience's perception and understanding of the performance.



## Why? (Purpose)

Effective use of voice is crucial in drama because it:

**Communicates Meaning:** Ensures words are heard, understood, and carry their intended weight.

**Develops Character:** Reveals personality, emotional state, age, status, background, and intentions.

**Conveys Emotion & Mood:** Creates atmosphere and allows the audience to feel what the character is experiencing.

**Engages the Audience:** Maintains interest and draws listeners into the story.

**Controls Pace & Rhythm:** Influences the flow and energy of a scene.

**Builds Relationships:** Shows dynamics between characters through vocal interactions.

## How? (Making It Effective)

Mastering the following vocal elements is essential for an actor:

- Projection
- Diction
- Tone
- Accent
- Pace
- Pause
- Pitch

See the next page for more detail on each of the above

## How? (Making It Effective)

### 1. Projection

**Definition:** The ability to make your voice loud enough to be heard clearly by the entire audience, without shouting or straining. It's about directing your voice.

**Impact:** Ensures audibility; indicates confidence or authority; lack of projection can suggest weakness or secrecy.

### 2. Diction (Articulation & Enunciation)

**Definition:** The clarity and precision with which words are pronounced. This includes articulating consonants and enunciating vowels.

**Impact:** Ensures every word is understood; can indicate a character's education, background, or state of mind (e.g., slurred diction for drunkenness).

### 3. Tone

**Definition:** The quality or "colour" of the voice that conveys attitude, emotion, or intention. (e.g., warm, sarcastic, menacing, gentle, aggressive).

**Impact:** Expresses the underlying feeling of the dialogue; informs the audience how a character truly feels about what they are saying or about another character.

### 4. Accent

**Definition:** A distinctive way of pronouncing a language, specific to a country, region, or social class.

**Impact:** Establishes a character's geographical origin, social background, or cultural identity; adds authenticity and specificity to a portrayal.

### 5. Pace

**Definition:** The speed at which an actor delivers their lines or speaks.

**Impact:**

- **Fast Pace:** Can indicate excitement, urgency, nervousness, anger, or high energy.
- **Slow Pace:** Can indicate sadness, thoughtfulness, weariness, seriousness, or a deliberate attempt to be clear.
- Varying pace creates dynamic and realistic dialogue.

### 6. Pause

**Definition:** A temporary silence or break in speech.

**Impact:**

- **Short Pause:** Can signify a moment of thought, hesitation, anticipation, or a shift in focus.
- **Long Pause:** Can indicate shock, deep emotion, an attempt to gather thoughts, dramatic tension, or an uncomfortable silence.
- Crucial for comedic timing, dramatic effect, and realism.

### 7. Pitch

**Definition:** The highness or lowness of the voice.

**Impact:**

- **High Pitch:** Can convey excitement, fear, youth, anxiety, or weakness.
- **Low Pitch:** Can convey seriousness, authority, maturity, sadness, or menace.
- **Vocal Range:** Using a varied pitch range keeps the voice interesting and expressive; monotone (lack of pitch variation) can suggest boredom or lack of emotion.