



## Phases in Learning to Cue

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*[ Though not sequential, it was noticed by the Cued Speech Team while at Gallaudet College, through its experiences teaching cues to various populations, that novice cuers go through common phases. These phases are still noted by Certified Instructors of Cued Speech throughout the United States. ]*

1. Ear training — a real “ear” opener !!
2. Memorizing the cues is “ 5c 3sd 5s !! ” \*
3. Needing to forget spelling is difficult.
4. Dexterity — getting finger-tied !!
5. Confusion with fingerspelling, especially ‘F’ and ‘H’
6. Mind control – hand-mouth coordination; headaches...
7. Conscious recall – ‘mouth-ear team’ leads ‘hand-place team’
8. Concentration – forget to move your mouth and/or use your voice
9. Drill syndrome – want it; hate it; need it. Persevere. Persevere. Persevere.
10. Synchronization – anxious to be fast.
11. Dependency on written material – a bad habit to begin and an important one to break.
12. Frustration – slowness in spontaneous cueing v. your desire to be able to cue anything. Early instruction is structured for drill and continuity.
13. Gradual improvement.
14. Hand leads the mouth – automatic cue decisions but often leads to being “out-of-sync.”
15. All of a sudden – Hey, that was right !! Phrases, redundancy, common sentences, expressions, and the like are automatic.
16. Catching errors, after the fact. You can “rewind” three words back and correct an error.
17. Improvement in self-esteem. Challenging oneself to liaisons or increasing speed.
18. Regression – reversals !! Disappointment... Back on track.
19. Can recall and control handshapes and placements.
20. Automatic ! Spontaneous ! In-sync !

\*Awesome

21. Soon you forget how to s p e l *and* sy lla bi kate !!
22. Challenged by transliterating skills and cueing others' pronunciations and noises in the environment.
23. Q: How/When can I practice on my own? A: Anywhere, anytime!  
If it's "think-able or speak-able," it's "cue-able."  
  
Think categories – birthdays, months, places, etc.  
  
Cue – in the shower, during a traffic jam, while waiting in line, etc.  
  
There's no ex-CUE-se not to cue !!
24. What is best to practice?
- a) Familiar phrases you use often at home or at work. These give you a powerful feeling when they become routine and automatic.
  - b) Carrier phrases, such as "Have a cup of \_\_\_\_\_."  
"That's my \_\_\_\_\_." "It's a \_\_\_\_\_."
  - c) Favorite song, poem, prayer, etc. – again, to feel the fluidity and ease of accurate cueing.
25. You've arrived !! You cue to anything below your waist – cue kids, babies, small animals, water fountains, plants; or to anyone who cannot understand what you are saying – foreigners, drivers in cars, co-workers, poor listeners, and relatives.

**Happy cueing !!**

*Revised: B. Williams-Scott, B. Kipila, P. Earl 2013*