`Rhythm—Speech Accent Archive

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1. Scavenger hunt: Find and underline seven different soft function words in the paragraph below.

Please call Stella.  Ask her to bring these things with her from the store:  Six spoons of fresh snow peas, five thick slabs of blue cheese, and maybe a snack for her brother Bob.  We also need a small plastic snake and a big toy frog for the kids.  She can scoop these things into three red bags, and we will go meet her Wednesday at the train station.

1. Predict the pronunciation of these soft function words.
2. Now, listen to a native speaker read the paragraph. How were the function words pronounced?
3. Now, listen to a non-native speaker read the paragraph. How were the function words pronounced?
4. What other differences in rhythm did you notice?
5. What are the non-native speaker’s pronunciation strengths?
6. Read the paragraph to your partner, trying to use reductions and othe