

Self Evaluation

1. Are my notes and words correct?
2. Am I hitting the target vowel at the right time and right away?
3. Am I staying on the vowel as it is held?
4. Do I always know what the target vowel is? If not, how do I find out?
5. Am I turning the diphthong in the same space as the target vowel?
6. Am I singing in tune?
7. Are my breaths in the right places?
8. Are my breaths the right length? (not coming in too soon or too late)
9. Am I taking legal cheat breaths the proper way all the time?
10. If there a dynamic change or a texture change am I doing it?
11. If I'm holding a note, am I doing something with it?
12. Is this whole song sung with the most resonance that I have? (in my BEST voice)
13. Am I employing good vocal production techniques most of the time?
14. Am I singing with the tempo, ahead of the tempo or just slightly behind it?
15. Am I singing to the end of the phrases?
16. Are the ends of the phrases being lifted or just falling off?
17. Are there "holes" in the sound? i.e. is the sound choppy or smooth? is it a "wall of sound"?
18. Am I putting my emotions into the performance of this song?
19. Can I fully execute the plan?

Listening Exercises for Duet and Trio Combinations

Pitch Technique

Is the pitch taken correctly and confidently?

Note Accuracy

Are they singing all the right notes?

Are they singing accurate intervals or are they singing above or below the intended pitch?

Sound

If they're holding a note, are they doing something with it or letting it become static?

Is singing space being maintained?

Does the quality of the sound change across the breath?

Is the dynamic plan evident? Accomplished with good VP?

Are the right vocal textures in place?

Are the ends of the phrases sung with lift?

Are they producing a wall of sound?

Is there balance appropriate to the barbershop cone?

Lyrical Delivery

Right words?

Correct target vowels?

Arriving at the target vowel at the right time?

Singing in sync at first and last of phrases?

Singing in sync within phrases?

Sustaining the target vowel as it is held or is the sound changing?

Turning my diphthongs with intent, in the same singing space as the target vowel?

Breathing

Are breaths in the right places?

Are they breath deficit in completing some phrases?

Are breaths the right length or are they coming in too soon or too late?

Tempo/Rhythms

Are they singing with the tempo, ahead of the tempo or just slightly behind it?

Are they singing the same meter – down beat or back beat?

Are they singing the correct rhythms and syncopations?

Showmanship

Is their posture indicative of a performer?

Are they delivering the lyrical message with the designated emotions?

Is it believable?

Does it have personality?

People Skills for Listeners

Prioritize

You can't do it all at once. Determine as a group the particular set of skills you're going to be working from one rehearsal to the next. Listen based on what the members have been working on. Then move to the next skill.

Record Yourself

Listen to yourself when you're singing.

Listen to yourself when you're giving input.

Listen to yourself when you're reacting to input from others.

Are you positive in your comments and your reactions?

Do you reward with comments when you hear improvement?

Do you argue with the evaluator?

Suggestions versus judgment

When you're the one being evaluated it's easier to respond to a suggestion for a change than it is to try to figure out what to do when you hear a judgment about your performance. For example, "You're out of sync" versus "Could we listen to the lead and audiate while she's singing to make sure we all understand the interpretation?"