Pronunciation Activities
(Unit 1)

Content words and function words

A. Work with a partner to find and circle the content words in each sentence.

Are you burning the candle at both ends? Do you feel you have no time for yourself? Do you forget to call family on birthdays or holidays? Have you stopped going out with friends because you’re too busy? Do you have trouble relaxing and having fun?

If you recognize yourself, you should remember to slow down and take more time for everything. Living a balanced life is about integrating the many vital areas of your life, including your health, friends, family, work, and romance.

Here are some tips for restoring a healthy perspective. First, remember to take time for the important people in your life. Stop over-scheduling and spend quality time with friends and family. Second, learn to eat, talk, walk, and drive more slowly. And don’t forget to turn your cell phone off sometimes. People who really want to talk to you will call back. Third, learn to live in the present and stop worrying about the future. And finally, take it easy and begin enjoying the simple things in life. Stop to smell the roses.

B. Now practice reading the text aloud, putting stress on the content words you circled.

Option: Listen to the Unit 1 Grammar Snapshot on page 4 to compare your choices with the words stressed in the listening. Note that stress may vary according to the intent of the speaker.