

4a There was a ...

John Allison

*There was an old salesman named Creek,
who pitched to his clients in Greek.
He said, 'While they doze
it's much easier to close,
and I do love to hear myself speak.'*

- 1 Underline the stressed syllables in each line of the above limerick. Then practise reading the limerick aloud with the correct stress and a regular rhythm.
- 2 Now mark the weak forms in each line. Read the limerick again paying attention to stress, rhythm and weak forms.
- 3 Mark the linking (words beginning with a vowel are linked to the previous word). Find two examples of elision where the final 'd' of a linked word disappears. Read the limerick again with the correct stress, rhythm, weak forms and linking.
- 4 Repeat the procedure in 1–3 with the following limerick.

A young Irish chemist from Cork
was nervous when giving a talk.
She concocted a snorter
from whiskey and porter,
and now she can talk but not walk.

- 5 Put the words in each line in the correct order to make a limerick about Richard Nixon.

Ricky called an old politician
TV found sticky appearances.
five his stubble o'clock
trouble got into him,
Ricky and Dicky became Tricky.