

Accent Improvement for Professional Success

Program Description

More and more, organizations are facing communication challenges associated with a rapidly changing, culturally diverse workforce. This program begins where conventional English as a Second Language courses ends. It is based on more than 20 years of linguistic research and teaching and was designed specifically to aid foreign-born individuals in improving their spoken English and native speakers who wish to improve regional dialects such as the Philadelphia, Boston, New York or Southern accents. Following an initial assessment and phonetic analysis of the participant's speech, a licensed speech-language pathologist creates an individualized learning program to address the basic aspects of accented speech that may interfere with a person's confidence and credibility when presenting to or interacting with others.

Program Focus

Participants can expect:

- An initial interview and a tape recording of their speech
- A customized learning program based on a phonetic analysis
- A complete set of practice exercises in either a CD-ROM or cassette tape format
- A workbook containing the participant's speech analysis and scripts for the recorded practice materials
- An "Audio-Reference" tape and booklet of customized practice words which the participant feels are especially important to learn
- A tape-recorded reevaluation to measure the participant's success
- A self-study program for continuing improvement at the end of the program

Participants will learn:

- The mechanics of pronunciation for the vowels and consonants of American English.
- How to improve discrimination skills through instructor imitation and cassette recording and playback.
- Basic word and sentence intonation patterns for longer messages (e.g., professional presentations, one-on-one interactions and communication in meetings).
- Guidelines for building pronunciation and intonation skills for personal/professional vocabulary lists.

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Program Options

One-on-one Private Coaching*

- 13 week program:
This program is for individuals with very strong foreign accents or those who wish to work on specific projects or goals. It includes 13 one-hour, weekly sessions, pre- and post-program evaluations and audiotaping for analysis by the speech-language pathologist.
- 7 week program:
This program is for individuals with very mild foreign accents or native speakers with regional dialects or in need of general speech improvement. It includes 7 one-hour, weekly sessions, pre- and post-program evaluations and audiotaping for analysis by the speech-language pathologist.

Group Instruction*

Group instruction for two to five participants includes 12 two-hour, weekly sessions, 1 one-hour private coaching session, pre- and post-program evaluations and audiotaping for analysis. Participants may be from the same or from different nationalities.

**** For all programs, participants should also plan to dedicate 1 hour per day to completing home assignments, working on practice tapes and implementing new speaking skills into their everyday life.***