

The Accent and Identity Course

12

WEEK CURRICULUM



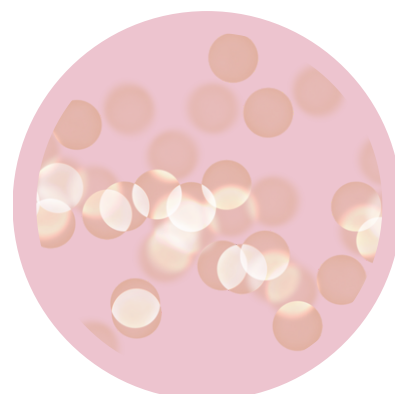
1 INTRODUCTION into PRODUCTION

We'll kick things off by looking at the core principles behind the voice and accent work that we're going to be doing throughout 12 whole weeks so as to establish some routines, you know? Each (almost!) coming week is going to have three major elements to it: consonant work, vowel work and voice/identity work.



2 Schwa it up and stir it up

Looking at the drivers behind a juicy AND flow-y accent: the renowned SCHWA-vowel plus 3 kinds of R-production and ways to juice things up indeed. Opening doors into the world of Identity.



3 Sizzle and drizzle

Tackling the S-Z-TH triad with the curiosity and excitement that it deserves. And then taking things low-low-lower, with us deepening into the /ɑ:/ sound as we begin to explore some of the key elements to the 'merican vowel landscape.

Voice play: more warm-ups, a glimpse at meditation.



4 Seeing the Light

So those L-sounds, both dark and light, ain't exactly the undemanding kind, eh? There's a lot of (fun-guaranteteing!) pretentiousness to them and we have Got to learn all about it - pretty much the same goes for this weirdo: the /æ/ as in "apple" sound? It may look approachable but it'll need some courting first, trust me on that.

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5 Spilling all the T and putting it to bEd

The T-spectrum is by far the most outrageous of all: there's a ton of T to spill, let's put it that way. And while my philosophy as an accent coach wouldn't encourage the at-times-paralyzing to-the-T approach, I sure would like us all to cross a good couple of T-s there, while we look into the good ol' /e/ VS /æ/ contrasts. A fun week, you guys!



6 Smooth operator: Tongue control

This week is going to be all about softening our Ds and Ts and Bs and..you get the idea. And along with that, we're going to take things further as far as our tongue placement skills go. Those /I/s and /l:/s won't place themselves, you see? And yes, when it comes to 'merican vowels, tongue is king.



7 Stop. Hold. Continue.

This week we're taking things further still: see, consonants, they got those small personalities on them, wherein technique of production can get tricky. Will they stop? Hold? Continue?! On that note, we're also going to take the infamous schwa-sound and turn it upside down for more vowel work.



8 Longing and belonging

This week is going to take us down two paths: one is going to take longer or quicker depending on who's accompanying you - a voiced consonant or a voiceless one (think "vowel length and what informs it"), whereas the other is going to be so categorically loNG, we're bound to very much beloNG. Committing to our NGs and exploring our language personas.

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These boots are made for walking

We made it! We made it all the way back..it's the so-called Back vowels I'm referring to. The poogie-boogie-woogie VS shoulda-woulda-coulda kind? So much to explore. Now, on the consonant front, we're moving onto the so-called clusters where sounds start to sorta kinda grow into each other and that way create whole new combinations, no less.

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Double trouble, though!

K, we are SO ready to take it to the next level, i.e. to add to our vowel load - and looking into diphthongs is the way to do that. Speaking of doubling things up, get ready for More consonant optionality - sometimes, in fact a lot of the times, you're invited to choose in-between two possibilities..tricky.

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There are no rules.

Now is a good time to look into exceptions. Which, to be fair, are exceptions to non-rules - because..English! So instead, we'll be looking into patterns and possibilities they invite: you'll be getting your hands on a map of sorts. And don't get me started on all the intonation patterns, you guys. FUN.

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Staying connected: in and out

Connected speech, though! Good news: there's rules, there's principles, there's patterns - and there's ways to embrace them all. This week is going to be oh so explorative. And so very liberating. Sound changes and emotional shifts - coming right up. Get ready to bridge major parts of yourself and connect to your elaborate English-speaking identity..

