

Ten Tips for Accent Reduction by Lisa Mojsin (modified by Walter Foreman)

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Observe the mouth movements of fluent speakers and try to imitate them	Until you learn the correct intonation and rhythm of English, slow down your speech
When you are watching TV look at the mouth movements of the speakers. Repeat what they are saying, imitating the intonation and rhythm of their speech.	If you speak too quickly with the wrong intonation and rhythm, people will have a hard time understanding you. Don't worry about your listener getting impatient with your slow speech – it is more important that everything you say be understood.
Listen to the “music” of English	Use your dictionary
Don't use the music of your native language when you are speaking English. Each language has its own way of “singing”.	Become familiar with the phonetic symbols of your dictionary and look up the correct pronunciation of words that are hard for you to say.
Make a list of frequently used words that are difficult for you to pronounce	Buy books on tape
Ask a fluent speaker to pronounce them for you. If possible, record these words, listen to them and practice saying them.	Listen and read at the same time. Record yourself reading some sections of the book. Compare the sound of your English with that of the speaker from the book on tape.
Pronounce the ending of each word	Read aloud in English for fifteen to twenty minutes each day
Pay special attention to the endings of plural nouns and past tense verbs.	This will help you strengthen the mouth muscles that you use when you speak English. Research has shown that it takes about three months of daily practice to develop strong mouth muscles for speaking a new language.
Record your own voice and listen for pronunciation mistakes	Be patient
Many people hate to hear the sound of their voice and avoid having to listen to themselves speaking. However, this is a very important exercise because doing it will help you become conscious of the mistakes that you are making.	You can change the way you speak but it won't happen overnight. People often expect instant results and give up too soon. You can change the way you sound if you are willing to put some effort into it.

