



SPEECH & ACCENT COACHING (ENGLISH AS AN ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE)

Clear communication is where it's at!

Communication is a vital part of everyday life more than ever before – the written word has changed beyond measure in recent years with the advent of ‘internet’ language, new ‘portmanteau’ words and emoji lingo. However, the spoken word is still king and, due to the greater use of phones, conference calls, Skype, Facetime and the like, there is greater awareness these days that being clear in your speech takes you a long way.

Thankfully, gone are the days of dull, dry elocution lessons - speech and accent coaching is today’s method of honing your skills of articulation for work presentations, recordings, meetings and everyday conversations – all while having fun!

People who have English as an additional language (and some as a first language) usually come along because they have become aware that they are not always being as clear as they would like and find that they are sometimes (or often) not understood. Speech and accent coaching sessions involve learning the pronunciation that was usually not taught alongside the grammar and vocabulary drills used when first learning English; coaching helps to identify the particular sounds and aspects of an accent which may make speech less clear, and a few baseline recordings are taken and used for comparison in identifying how sounds can change.

For some people, working on understanding English intonation (the ups and downs of a sentence which convey meaning) and word stress is a great benefit and for others just unpicking slang words and some of the phrases we say in English (“raining cats and dogs”, “chock-a-block”) leads to a greater understanding of this complex language!

Accents don’t tend to fully change after around the age of 10 years or so, give or take, and sometimes change can depend on how much of a natural ‘mimic’ a person is; a few sessions will start you on the road to improving your clarity – and confidence – for speaking and for being understood.

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