

From One Instructor to the Next . . .

Thank you for purchasing the *Accent Reduction 101 program: Speaking English Closer to the American Cultural Style, Third Edition*. I am very proud of the third edition and would like to point out useful features for optimal success with your clients.

- The optional live seminar DVD set is from my ASHA approved continuing education lecture and covers all key points needed on how to reduce an accent. The live DVDs are divided into the following sections: Preparing Clients for Success, American Intonation, Fast Rate of Speech, Muscular Tension, Assessment, and Consonant and Vowel Sounds, as well as How to Begin a Small Private Practice. A tremendous amount of information has been provided, and the benefit of having the DVDs is that you can view it more than once.
- The instructor manual is identical to the student manual so all lessons will begin on the same page. The student manual has auditory support that serves as a model for target words and sentences in the program and contains instructional points. An optional student DVD is also available which is a recording of our two day accent reduction workshop for business professionals. This recording presents key lesson points such as why accents exist and eliminating foreign traits, intonation, resonance and common errors people make when first learning consonant and vowel sounds. The comments, questions and answers from actual students came out very clearly and would be a nice addition to your client's program. It can be purchased on the website in our bookstore.

How the Program Is Organized

- The article Understanding Why Your Speech Is Accented is nice to have available at your consultations to use as a guide for talking points. It explains how speech becomes accented and profiles common habits. Many of my clients see themselves in the description. Permission has been granted for photocopying the article.
- ❖ **Unit 1: Set Yourself Up for Success**. Introduce this unit to your clients and review the highlights. Doing this will position your clients to better achieve their goals. Encourage your clients to use the speech notebook and speech triggers as a routine staple of their accent modification program. The self-evaluation sheets for melody, sounds and voice habits are instrumental in assisting your client's awareness and understanding of their current habits.
 - My clients who work with their speech notebook regularly and do the self-assessment frequently make better progress compared to those who do not. These are very helpful tools

in the program for getting your clients to use their new skills out in the world.

- The Personal Goal Tracking Sheet is designed for you to outline the skills/homework you want your clients to reinforce between sessions. At each session, review last week's goals, chosen speech triggers and the daily lines from your clients speech notebook.

- ❖ **Unit II:** American Intonation. This is absolutely the most important skill for successfully reducing an accent and speaking English closer to the American cultural style.

- ❖ **Unit III:** Voice, Resonance and Breathing. Often, vocal pitch and where the voice is placed are cultural and influence accent. This unit is important for clients who want to “sound more American.” Teaching breathing is beneficial for those who speak with too much muscular force or have a fast speaking rate.

- ❖ **Units IV and V:** American consonant and vowel sounds have lessons clearly outlined for teaching the steps on how to produce specific sounds. The student manual has auditory support that contains the target words and sentences to serve as examples. Encourage your clients to practice daily to have sharp awareness for changing their new speech behaviors. The American Vowel Sound Boot Camp helps students understand the subtle differences between the vowel sounds.

- **Coaching for Instructors.** We now offer coaching for instructors on-line through Skype or Webex. If you would like detailed support on identifying accented traits and improving instruction, building your practice and having increased confidence to negotiate and be a business owner, contact us. We offer a coaching program for building business strategy, learning targeted marketing, how to expand corporate communication outside of accent reduction and establishing business contracts.

I wish you great success!
Liz Peterson