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American Accent Training

BARRON'S

ANN COOK

American Accent Training

A guide to speaking and pronouncing
American English for everyone who speaks
English as a second language



- Take the "pure sound" approach to speaking
- Listen to the rhythms of spoken language
- Imitate the fluid ways of American speech
- Americans will understand you better—and you'll understand them better too!
- "I took pronunciation classes for two years at Princeton, and in my opinion, American Accent Training is far superior."
—Dr. Z. Kucala, Hydrologist



Synopsis

This audio is the new and expanded third edition of American Accent Training, with four all-new chapters that cover the psychology of accent acquisition, American voice quality, a pronunciation overview, and an ESL instructor's guide. The audio features professional male and female voices that have been carefully selected to represent that perfect American accent. With 30 years of extensive research, the unique AAT methodology has been refined to teach the American sound quickly and easily, paying special attention to: Voice quality, with emphasis on accurate presentation of the authentic American sound Pronunciation, with attention to all vowels, consonants, blends, and diphthongs Intonation, which focuses on syllable stress rules and word stress in a sentence Linking, or liaisons between phonetically transcribed sounds so students can "see" the sound. Added features include access to comprehensive websites and referral to a qualified telephone analyst for individual help. American Accent Training has been Americanizing the speaking habits of students and businesspeople since 1991. Going where no accent training has gone before, AAT continues to set the standard for anyone learning or teaching the American accent.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

This book changed my life by changing my perception of the American Accent. After moving to the U.S. it became critical for me to communicate orally at a similar level as the native speakers. If you want to understand and be able to replicate how Americans speak English then you REALLY need this book. That is especially the case if you, like me, have spent (many) years reading and listening

American English but not living in the U.S. This book will open your ears, yes your ears! In several languages you can pronounce virtually everything right just by knowing how the words are written. As you may have noticed, that is not the case with American English. This book helps you to understand how it works and even, in general terms, why. Don't think that the American English follows no rules or that you are unable to learn and use them. Here you will find examples to understand the patterns and exercises to practice and incorporate them into your everyday speech. The author clearly knows her subject and has extensive PRACTICAL experience teaching English as Second Language (ESL) to people with different language backgrounds. It shows in her explanations of how and why. Don't miss "The Miracle Technique"! nor how you can pronounce words and phrases the right way if you see them written the way they are said. It will blow you away! Something funny is that just 1 week after I started reading the book and doing the exercises, people around me noticed the difference! But make no mistakes, if you want to benefit from all what this book offers you need to take the time and effort to read/study the book and practice, practice, practice.

SEE ORIGINAL REVIEW FIRST below after the break*****UPDATE MAY 2014*****I decided to update this review nearly 2 years later, as I can shed some light on some lingering questions, linguistically speaking :) So, here goes. Two years later my biggest noticeable slip in the American accent remains the letter R, ah , my obstinate, unruly, AAAAAAARRRRR. Yep, I trill it. I know it's an alveolar flap really, but it slips in when I'm not noticing, that rogue rascal raining on my parade. (Ann would have added rambunctious, but that's too many R's). I watch with stupidity as my 4 year old sails through "rainbows and gardens" then "Ø ù...ù,, ù~ Ø"Ø-Ø " without skipping a beat (pronounced ramel and bahar, and they mean sand and sea, respectively) Ah well, that's about it, really. I've retained or improved on -nearly- everything else: Intonation is getting really good, pitch can still be a b*tch, liaisons are now decent, and the most striking example of further accent acquisition happened this morning . Someone was trying to sell me his lawn care service, over the phone, and I was trying to politely get rid of him. It's a Sunday, I'm standing outside an ICU room waiting to talk to family (I'm a doctor), and I wanna be done early today, ya know? Finally after the fourth no thank you from me, he hangs up. I hang up too, exclaiming " Jesus H Christ !!!" One second later, I burst out laughing at this. (On a more serious note, so CENTRAL is the R to all you Yanks that the "American sound " can be summarized in one self-repeating mantra :

RhubarbRhubarbRhubarbâ~ !

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