

SPEAK EASILY - ACCENT REDUCTION EVENING CLASS Indian and South Asian Languages

Suitability

This course is suitable for Advanced Speakers of English who wish to reduce their accent towards Standard English or RP (Received Pronunciation) who have one of the following languages as their mother tongue:

Persian, Arabic, Hindi, Urdu, Gujarati, Punjabi, Bengali, Tamil, Telegu, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Assamese and Sindhi – *plus some we've missed...*



Duration

8 week Course starts	Weekdays	6.30-9pm
	Saturdays	10-12.30 or 1-3.30

Cost £375

Location

32 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QJ

Call 0207 717 9649 to book – or use our online booking form

Requirements

Please download and fill in the [Booking Form](#) and either return this to us by post, or email us the relevant information. You will also need to pay a deposit of £95 to reserve your place. The balance of the fee is due a minimum of one week before the course starts. All monies are refundable (minus a £15 administration fee) if cancelled at least one week before the course start date. After that there can be no refund.

Certificate of Elocution and Accent Training

We cannot provide you with an official qualification, but we do give you a Certificate to prove that you have undertaken this training.

COURSE SYLLABUS

The 20 hours of training takes you through a 4-part process:

1. We retrain your speech muscles to be able to easily adapt to the sounds of RP English.
2. We train you to accurately hear and use the Stress and Intonation of English.
3. We train any difficult consonant sounds.
4. We train any difficult vowel sounds.

You will easily absorb skills and information that will help you work on your accent for years to come:

1. The **Phonetic Alphabet** - the symbols that represent the 20 vowel sounds and 24 consonant sounds of RP English. This allows you to overcome any habitual, incorrect responses to our spelling. (For example confusing *walk* and *work*).
2. Our **Unique Vowel Star® Movement System** for the Vowels. At Speak Easily we teach the 20 vowels in families of movements. This trains your muscles more effectively and makes the vowels much easier to remember.
3. The **4 Levels of Stress** which make up the Stress, Emphasis and Intonation system. Again, our simple system allows rapid absorption and application of RP's complex rhythm and emphasis patterns.
4. The **rules of spelling** you can trust and the lists of 'exceptions' you have to memorise. Our materials are based on lists of the most common 500, 1000 and 7000 words in English. We familiarise you with the most common vocabulary and also the most unusual spellings.

Indian and South Asian Languages Features

Default Posture – The major contributing factor to the South Asian sound is the position of the tongue for many of the front consonants – particularly t and d. In most of these languages the position of some or all of the variants of these consonants is much further back and often retroflex. This usually means position of the whole tongue is held further back in the mouth and higher up, with tighter, higher jaw. The accent feels focused almost at the top of the spine, and the tight tongue-back and jaw can also lend a nasal quality to the voice. A British English RP accent will send the sound forward over a released back tongue, with a lower, softer jaw and more lip rounding. With some variations, these are the major blocks to an RP sound that our Voice Training Articulation Exercises will help you overcome.

Intonation Patterns – Many Indian accents have a strong, rhythmic tune that is unrelated to meaning. RP uses intonation, rhythm and tune very specifically to convey meaning. You need to be accurate which is the strong syllable in a word. You need to only stress the meaning words in a sentence (South Asian speakers will often land lots of energy on small words that are fairly low in the meaning hierarchy, according to their habitual rhythm). And you need to be able to use intonation (high notes) to communication the emotion and extra significance of the Key Words in a phrase. This relates the intonation and rhythm entirely to meaning and will feel very different to the normal rolling, South Asian cadence.

Specific Consonant Differences - The main points of work are: to adopt TH accurately; to differentiate W and V; change R and L as required; and bring the T and D forwards (or possibly choose a different T and D from the wide range Hindi for example has available!). The T and D also need to be accompanied by a little puff of air. Many South Asian accents close a consonant at both the mouth and throat (glottis) not allowing the stream of air to continue forwards. This chops up the sound and cuts the vowels short. Learning to release the consonants (again choose the aspirated versions in your own accent if there's a choice) will help the overall flow of English RP enormously.

Specific Vowel Differences - In general all of these accents need to address the differences between the long and short vowel pairs, and develop much more length for words like car and four. The more closed jaw position affects vowel pairs like pet and pat. Strong back of tongue tension can squeeze the Neutral vowel bird, and the 'schwa' (short Neutral) tends to be over-pronounced, following the spelling. Other vowels are effected strongly by the different Default Position of the muscles, with a lack of lip rounding for words like you and your, pot and put. The most distinct sounds needing work, however, are the very strong monophthongs (single vowels) that replace the diphthongs (transforming vowels) for go and day.

These are just some of the specific issues we will focus on in your lessons and homework.

To give you some idea of Lesson Structure, here is a possible outline of the first lesson. As each of our expert coaches has the skill to respond to each group and their questions in a fluid manner, this may differ from what happens in your actual class. But it gives you some idea.

LESSON ONE

Part 1 – How to Study an Accent

An overview of the process of how to train your accent. We will initially focus on retraining you muscle groups and introduce you to all the movement patterns you need to master with the speech muscles. We include filming your own accent movement patterns, comparing with a native RP speakers (the teacher) and learning to adopt the RP Default Setting for the speech muscles, or 'Neutral'.

Tea and coffee

Part 2 – Physical Practice

We continue by introducing you to the six Strong/Long Vowels and their families of movement groups. Like this, you begin to master the muscle shaping of the mouth space which will allow you to sound truly British. We start to use Phonetic Symbols to understand the difference between sound and spelling and to unlock your instinctive urge to 'say what you see'.

Rest of Course

In the rest of the course you will study in further detail;

1. The whole of the 6 vowel families, including 12 basic vowels and 8 diphthongs.
2. Further specific spelling rules, particularly dealing with end of word accuracy.
3. Accurate movement and pronunciation of any errant consonants – focusing on the hardest for your accent group.
4. The 4 Levels of stress which give you the word stress accuracy, sentence clarity and intonation patterns for meaning.
5. How to link words together into fluid units of sound with a wide tune that accurately expresses your opinion.
6. Lots of drills and practice work to help build muscle memory and drive the new words in habit.

The course is very intensive and a great deal of new information will come to you each session. There is homework and daily practice is required to make good progress.

A DVD of MP3 recordings of from the course book, by native RP speaking trained actors (including our coaches Morwenna and Leslie) will be given to you at the start of the course. We recommend you transfer this material to your MP3 player or phone and listen every day. There are additional audio and video materials on your course webpage.

It is unlikely that you will be completely 'cured' of your original accent in English in just 8 weeks. But you should be well on your way to making mastering the necessary changes. We make sure our online audio and visual materials are available to you for a further three months to ensure you continue to practice and gain confidence after the course. And like this, you will make permanent, natural progress towards the accent you want.

If you have any further questions call us on: 0207 717 9649 or email us on [info@speakeasily.com](mailto:info@speak-easily.com) and we'll do our best to help.