

# **Accent Reduction and American Accent Development Class**

## **Week 1: Self-Assessment**

# *Format of the Ten-Week Program*

- Conduct a self-assessment
- Compile and practice your most frequently used words in daily life and in your profession
- Practice with Voice of America Special English
- Practice with TED Talks on presentation speed
- Read a paragraph at your choice
- Give a table topic speech
- Final self-assessment to check your progress

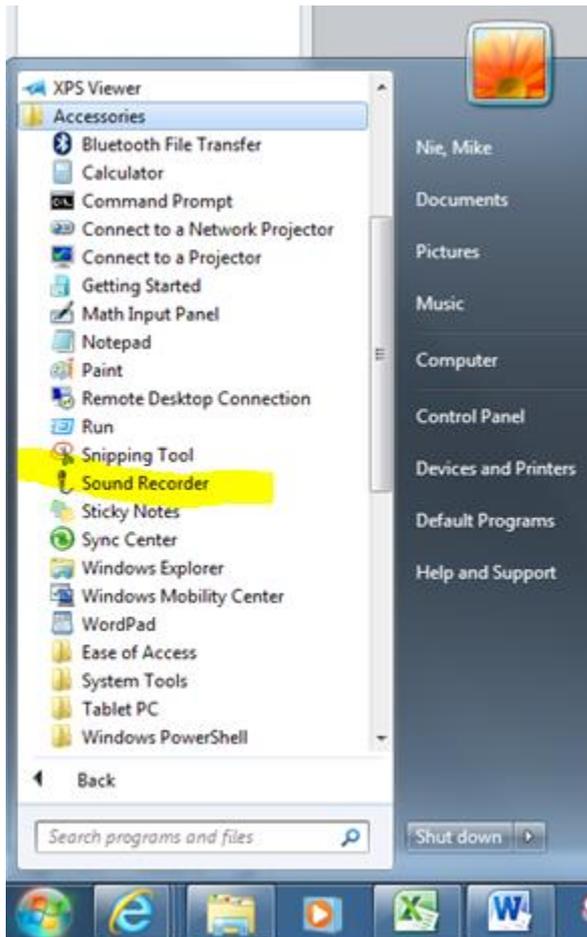
“It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.” Confucius

# Resources

- Accent reduction, Public Speaking and Soft Skills Training (Fee based, one-to-one coaching)
  - Coach Mike Nie, CFA, CPA and MBA
  - Distinguished Toastmasters, the highest level of credential of Toastmasters International
  - Coach youth and professionals in public speaking, critical listening, and social intelligence
  - (703) 606-0270 / [mnie88@yahoo.com](mailto:mnie88@yahoo.com) / “mnie0002” on WeChat
- Accent Reduction and Professional Writing (Fee based, one-to-one coaching)
  - Ms. Cara Fulton, English for Academic Purposes Teacher at George Washington University
  - Founder of MAESTRO, LLC ([www.maestrousa.com](http://www.maestrousa.com))
  - Distinguished Toastmasters, the highest level of credential of Toastmasters International
  - Advanced Pronunciation: American Accent development, accent reduction, and accent modification
  - (202) 505-3412 / [Fultc@hotmail.com](mailto:Fultc@hotmail.com)

# Recording Instructions

- Windows Computers:  
Search “Sound Recorder.”



- Apple Products:



# Part I: Self-Introduction

Introduce yourself briefly in a few sentences. Tell your name, what you do for a job or field of study and describe where you live.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I grew up in \_\_\_\_\_ Province, China. I have \_\_\_\_\_ years of professional experience in \_\_\_\_\_ industry. I love my profession because it \_\_\_\_\_.

In terms of my education, I have a degree in \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ University. I treasure my time at college because \_\_\_\_\_.

In my spare time, I like \_\_\_\_\_. I enjoy it because it \_\_\_\_\_. My passion is \_\_\_\_\_. My dream life is to \_\_\_\_\_.

# Part 2: Enunciation of Consonants

*Say the following sentence or questions without trying to change your natural speech*

- The berry on the tree was very red. [r]
- He vowed he would never wait for those women again. [w vs v]
- We went to the mall after school. [au]
- Did you buy plenty of pies for the party? [p]
- My neighbor, Nathan, likes to mow his lawn every Saturday morning, which is very annoying. [l vs n, oi]

## Part 2 Consonants (continued)

- He bought a white shirt for church. [ir]
- He prayed we would not have to pay \$200 to play golf. [ei]
- A major problem in education is juvenile justice. [dg]
- It is at the end of the hallway. [a]
- You are absolutely right. You are precisely correct. You are exactly to the point.
- I bought a DVD for my son's thirteenth birthday. [th]
- Chimpanzee is an unusual animal in New Jersey. [z]

# Part 3: Enunciation of vowels

*Say the following sentence or questions without trying to change your natural speech*

- Can you wait there? [t]
- Can you wade there? [d]
- The sheep had been lost for days. [ee]
- The ship had been lost for days. [i]
- I've never seen such a big cup. [u]
- I've never seen such a big cap. [ae]
- I can draw a beautiful picture on a white sheet of paper. [dr] [u:] [ee]

# Part 3 Vowels (continued)

- Is his back full of heavy sticks? [k]
- Is his bag full of heavy sticks? [g]
- She fell on the ice.
- She fell on the ass.
- Did you say you were studying psychology or sociology?
- Are you a software engineer or computer engineer? [f, w, and t]
- Do you mean thirty or thirteen?
- It is 9:15am, not 9:50am.

# Part 3B: Colors

Please read the following colors slowly yet naturally. Pause after each one.

1. Green

2. Pink

3. Gray

4. Red

5. Black

6. White

7. Brown

1. Purple

2. Mustard

3. Tomato

4. Blue

5. Wood

6. Yellow

7. Olive

## Part 3C: Names

Please read the following names slowly yet naturally. Pause after each one.

- Alan Greenspan
- Ellen DeGeneres
- Adam Smith
- Smithsonian museums
- Isaac Newton
- Albert Einstein
- Theodore Roosevelt
- Elizabeth Warren
- Tony Robbins
- Rebecca Minkoff
- Andrea Bocelli
- Celine Dion
- Beyoncé
- Kim Kardashian
- Angelina Jolie
- Brad Pitt

# Part 4: Word Stress

*Say the following words across from left to right*

- Economy
- Strategy
- Mechanics
- A permit
- 1990
- Attack
- Project
- Economics
- Strategically
- Mechanism
- To permit
- Compassionate
- Attic
- Projection



# Part 5: Sentence Stress and Thought Groups (continued)

- Why would you go to school when you could work and earn money?
- Excuse me. / Where is the bathroom?
- Now that I see it, / I think I prefer it in red.
- She hasn't told me, / but I think she'll get married soon.
- She's pregnant! / And due in October!
- I got a new puppy, but now I need to train her!
- Though Steve Jobs is irreplaceable / I think Apple can succeed without him.
- Tim Cook comes out.

# Part 6: Dialogue for Intonation/Emphasis

*Role Play (Please vary your pitch and tones)*

- *Larry*: Hi Karen, How have you been doing?
- *Karen*: I'm fine, but I've been very busy on the Bing Project.
- *Larry*: Oh, I didn't know you were working on that project. I thought Michael was in charge.

# Part 6 Dialogue for Intonation/Emphasis (continued)

- *Karen*: Actually, I've been put in charge of the project since Michael went out of town for three weeks.
- *Larry*: How many people are assigned to work with you?
- *Karen*: There are two separate teams of five people each. One team is working on the design part and the other team is mostly in charge of the implementation plan.
- *Larry*: Will you be finished soon?

# Part 6 continued

- *Karen*: We should be finished by December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- *Larry*: Well, good luck! I'm sure glad I don't have to be in charge of it. Let me know when it's done.

# Part 7: Linking

- My name is \_\_\_\_\_. My phone number is \_\_\_\_\_. My email address is \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_.com.
- I will look at it, think about it, and talk about it.
- Give it to his owner.
- He had a lot of fun. But she hated it.
- If you had told me earlier, I would have bought a birthday present for you.