

Upgrade My Accent with Jamie



Hello, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Jamie Jeffery and I am a nationally certified Speech Language Pathologist who is passionate about accent work! I live in Arizona with my 3 daughters. I love to travel and learn languages. Let's talk about accents. Everyone has one, even in their native language. Our accent is part of who we are and how we express ourselves. Some accents are easier to understand than others. A heavy accent is common for language learners. This can be difficult to understand, making communication challenging. Listeners often get distracted by a heavy accent and will spend more time trying to understand the words than the message of the speaker.

What makes an accent? An accent is marked by many different linguistic features such as stress and intonation patterns, vowel and consonant production, glottalization, consonant blending, rate of speech, coarticulation and rate of speech, just to name a few. In the first session, I will be able to pinpoint your linguistic markers which impact your accent the most. I will show you different ways to produce speech and sounds to increase your intelligibility.

If you are just starting to study interpreting or have few experiences, you probably a strong accent in your native language. At the beginner level, students may feel it's too early to focus on accent improvement but struggle with understanding speakers. Improving your accent is a shortcut to leveling up all of your communication skills!

It is never too soon to start. The sooner you become aware and are able to work on your difficult sounds or patterns, the more progress you will make. You have potential to improve quickly. It is faster and easier to become 10% more understandable to the listener through better pronunciation than to correctly interpret 10% more of what the speaker is saying. Improving your accent will allow you to speak faster when you are shadowing without sacrificing your intelligibility. This will not only improve your speaking skills, but will also improve your listening skills by 10% or more! Lessons are custom made just for you! You decide how many lessons you will take. Your ideal number of classes depends on your communication goals.

***1 lesson** will help you gain awareness of your specific speech patterns.

***3 lessons** is a good introduction to accent modification. You can work on a couple of sounds, getting specific tips on how to improve your sounds.

***6 lessons** will give you enough time to address most, or all of your speech patterns.

***12 lessons** will make the biggest difference to improve your accent, listening skills and sustain changes in your accent!

We will work on 1 or 2 sounds or patterns per session. The biggest factor that you can control is how consistently you are practicing. I recommend practicing a minimum of 20 minutes per day. Your lessons are individualized to support you in taking your communication to the next level.

I am excited to get to know you! In your video, please tell me about yourself, where you are from, your job, family, pets, hobbies, and whatever makes you happy. I would also love to hear your experience learning English, your strengths and areas you would like to work to improve. Tell me about your goals and I am here to help you achieve them!

I look forward to meeting you soon!

Jamie Jeffery, MS, CCC-SLP