

Chapter 1 : How to Speak in a British Accent - wikiHow

It's Not About the Accent and millions of other books are available for Amazon Kindle. Learn more Enter your mobile number or email address below and we'll send you a link to download the free Kindle App.

The amount of jokes that accent can be applied to are endless. Are you making jokes about being cheap? About getting good grades? What about math nerd jokes? It can be hilarious. I can make all the jokes I want about the stereotypes about my culture. I can make cheapskate jokes about myself in the same way you can call yourself a jerk but strangers saying that to you would be rude. Who are you to tell me how well I know myself and my culture? It is a small thing, but small things matter. This ties into a much bigger picture. The kind of racism that Asian-Americans face is distinct from the kind that African-Americans confront, which is the kind of racism that immediately jumps to mind when discussing discrimination in America. Racism against black people tends to be overtly unacceptable, and most people, regardless of their race, can call it out whether they are black, white or Asian. The black community in the U. On the other hand, Asians are often left out of the racial dialogue; when it comes to the Asian community, attitudes are different because the nature of the target group itself is different. There is a strong feeling within Asian culture that one should keep their head down and out of trouble in the face of things like discrimination because it lessens the chance of harm. This worked in the interests of my parents, who were immigrants back in the late eighties and early nineties. For their children like myself, we grew up in an America that gave us the ability and the nerve to talk back against problems just like this one. The issue with racism against Asians is that it is culturally acceptable, and it is incredibly frustrating. The GI abandons her for his white American wife and the noble prostitute kills herself. It boxes Asian people in, and calling people out for promoting those stereotypes all too easily leads to dismissal because those stereotypes are not overtly, in-your-face offensive. So, long story short: Try taking a look at the helpful flowchart alongside this article the next time you feel tempted to crack an accent-related joke.

To ask other readers questions about It's Not about the Accent, please sign up. Be the first to ask a question about It's Not about the Accent Caro, from Ohio, has decided to be more intriguing for college. So she becomes Carolina--Cuban accent on the r--instead of Caroline. It's not exactly a lie.

What is an accent? An accent is a way of pronouncing a language. It is therefore impossible to speak without an accent. Some people may think they do not have an accent. Or you may think that there are other people who do not have an accent. Everyone has an accent. But these are also accents. I will mention them again later in this FAQ. Your accent results from how, where, and when you learned the language you are speaking and it gives impressions about you to other people. People do not have a single fixed accent which is determined by their experiences. We can control the way we speak, and do, both consciously and unconsciously. Most people vary their accent depending on who they are speaking with. We change our accents, often without noticing, as we have new life experiences. How accurate people are in knowing about you from your accent depends not only on the features of your accent, but also on who the listener is, and what they know about the other people who speak with a similar accent to you. Your accent might be one that is associated with people from a particular place for example, with being from New York, London, or Delhi. Some people might just hear you as simply being from the US, England, or India. Your accent might give the impression that you spoke some other language before the one you are speaking at the moment you might speak French with an English accent, or English with a Korean accent. All languages are spoken with several different accents. There is nothing unusual about English. And not everyone who comes from the same place speaks the same: Language changes over time. We get new words, there are grammatical changes, and accents change over time. If you listen to recordings made by people from your own language community years ago, you will hear for yourself that even over that time accents have changed. Try out some of the links from the Spoken Word Archive Group , for example. Why do languages develop different accents? In all sorts of ways, we behave like those we mix with. We are members of social groups, and within our social group we like to behave in similar ways and show that we belong. We do this in language as well as in other ways e. When groups become distinct, the way they speak becomes distinct too. This happens socially and geographically, but is easiest to illustrate by geographical differences. If a single group splits into two imagine that one half goes to Island A and one half to Island B , then once they have separated, their accents will change over time, but not in the same way, so that after just one generation the accent of Island A will be different from the accent of Island B. If they stay completely separated for centuries, their dialects may become so different that we will start wanting to say they are speaking two different languages. Humans like to travel. Since humans left their place of origin in East Africa, more than , years ago, they have spread all over the world. And they have moved in waves in some places, mixing with, or conquering, people who were there earlier. English developed in England as a result of people moving to England from across the North Sea in the fifth century CE -- they were at least the fourth major wave of humans to reach the island of Britain, and the descendants of the previous waves were still there when they arrived to mix with them. In modern times the last years the activities of aggressive and acquisitive Europeans has resulted in them moving all over the world and taking their languages especially English, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch and French with them. Why are the accents a particular place like they are? Separate development accounts for some accent variation. But sometimes we need to talk about the first generation of speakers of a particular language brought up in a new place. The first children to grow up in a new place are very important. They want to speak the same as each other to express their group identity. The accent they develop as they go through their childhood will become the basis for the accents of the new place. So where does their accent come from? The first generation of children will draw on the accents of the adults around them, and will create something new. If people move to a new place in groups as English speakers did to America, Australia and New Zealand that group usually brings several different accents with them. The children will draw on the mixture of accents they hear and create their own accent out of what they hear. The modern accents of Australia are more similar to London accents of English than to any other accent from

England -- this is probably because the founder generation in the eighteenth century had a large component drawn from the poor of London, who were transported to Australia as convicts. The accents of New Zealand are similar to Australian accents because a large proportion of the early English-speaking settlers of New Zealand came from Australia. The mix found in the speech of the settlers of a new place establishes the kind of accent that their children will develop. And if the population grows slowly enough, the children will be able to absorb subsequent children into their group, so that even quite large migrations of other groups such as Irish people into Australia will not make much difference to the accent of the new place. Most parents know this. If someone from New York US marries someone from Glasgow Scotland, UK , and these two parents raise a child in Leeds England, UK , that child will not speak like either of the parents, but will speak like the children he I know of such a child! To understand what happened in the past we need strong evidence from both language and history. We need to know about the places that migrants came from, and something about the kinds of accents they are likely to have had. Is there a Standard English accent? There is not a single correct accent of English. There is no neutral accent of English. All speakers of English need to cope with many different aspects and learn how to understand them. Some accents are associated with social groups who have high prestige the kinds of accents spoken by highly educated people, for example , but there are also many of these high prestige accents, all of them regionally based. The accents that are traditionally taught to non-native speakers of English are high prestige accents from various places. The two most commonly taught accents in the world as a whole are both rather artificial: Both these accents are used over a wide geographical area, though in world terms both are regional accents General American is a US accent, and RP is an accent of England. They are heard more, by more people in the country, than are accents which are associated with a smaller area: These accents are the ones transcribed in dictionaries. Because they are used over wide areas, and used by people of high social class, they are seen as being suitable to teach to foreign learners of English. When radio was developed in the early twentieth century, many radio stations in the US and the UK selected their continuity presenters and news readers by their accent. The BBC, incidentally, no longer has this policy and now uses news readers and presenters with a wider range of accents. In all languages some accents have higher prestige than others. Tests of judgment have been made in many languages which show that people within a community often share judgments. These judgments are based on stereotypical associations. If British accents are played to Americans, they do not make the same judgments, because they have not learnt to associate different British accents with the same stereotypes British people have. Judgments like this are not based on anything in the accent itself -- if different accents of English are played to Russians who speak no English, they cannot distinguish the high prestige from the low prestige accents. You should try to speak neutrally about different accents, and not suggest that one accent is better than another. Which English accent is closest to the spelling? English spelling is based on the pronunciation of the fourteenth century. No one speaks in that way now. English spelling therefore represents all accents of English equally well, or equally badly. As there are so many accents of English, it is fortunate that we have such an old spelling system which we can all use; otherwise we would be arguing about which accent we should base our spelling on! No modern English accent is exactly like any accent of the past. All accents change over time. It has been suggested that some isolated rural accents such as in rural Virginia preserve more features of older accents than do cosmopolitan and mixed urban accents. A very large change took place in some accents of England that seems to have started in the seventeenth century. This led to changes in the way the vowels were pronounced. But in those accents too, there have been many other changes in the last years. Can I change my accent? Accents are not fixed. Our accents change over time as our needs change and as our sense of who we are changes and develops. Usually this happens naturally, and often unconsciously. Accents can be expected to change until we are in our early twenties. This is usually the time we come to some sort of decision about who we are. But even after that, if you want and need to change your accent, you can. To change your accent you have to want to. Really want to, deep down. This usually happens without much effort because you move to a new place, mix with different people, or develop new aspirations. Do you need to change your badge of identity? Some popular prejudiced against certain groups many Ask-A-Linguist postings suggest that a lot of people in the US are prejudiced against people from the Southern US. I myself changed my pronunciation of words like book,

look because of pressure. But it is sad to succumb to pressure like this -- it is no different from dark skinned people using skin whitening creams to look like pale skinned people, or East Asian people having their eyelids operated on to get European looking eyes.

Chapter 3 : It's Not About the Accent | ColorÃ-n Colorado

Get this from a library! It's not about the accent. [Caridad Ferrer] -- Caroline Darcy decides to explore--and exploit--her distant Cuban ancestry when she goes away to college, claiming to be half-Cuban, calling herself "Carolina," and dying her blond hair Havana Brown.

You can help by adding to it. September Children are able to take on accents relatively quickly. Children of immigrant families, for example, generally have a more native-like pronunciation than their parents, but both children and parents may have a noticeable non-native accent. It involves producing a wide range of complex and subtle distinctions which relate sound to meaning at several levels. As such ways of increasing intelligibility of speech has been recommended by some researchers within the field. This is often due to their association with the elite part of society. For example, in the United Kingdom , Received Pronunciation of the English language is associated with the traditional upper class. All languages and accents are linguistically equal. Stereotypes may result in prejudice, which is defined as having negative attitudes toward a group and its members. Relevant discussion may be found on the talk page. Please do not remove this message until conditions to do so are met. March Learn how and when to remove this template message Discrimination refers to specific behaviors or actions directed at a group or its individual members based solely on the group membership. Rosina Lippi-Green writes, Accent serves as the first point of gate keeping because we are forbidden, by law and social custom, and perhaps by a prevailing sense of what is morally and ethically right, from using race, ethnicity, homeland or economics more directly. We have no such compunctions about language, thus, accent becomes a litmus test for exclusion, and excuse to turn away, to recognize the other. For example, non-native speaking graduate students, lecturers, and professors, across college campuses in the US have been targeted for being unintelligible because of accent. In a study conducted by Rubin , students listened to a taped lecture recorded by a native English speaker with a standard accent. They were then shown an image of the "lecturer", sometimes Asian-looking, sometimes white. Participants in the study who saw the Asian picture believed that they had heard an accented lecturer and performed worse on a task that measured lecture comprehension. Negative evaluations may reflect the prejudices rather than real issues with understanding accents. Commonwealth held that a white police officer, who had not seen the black defendant allegedly involved in a drug transaction, could, nevertheless, identify him as a participant by saying that a voice on an audiotape "sounded black". The police officer based this "identification" on the fact that the defendant was the only African American man in the room at the time of the transaction and that an audio-tape contained the voice of a man the officer said "sounded black" selling crack cocaine to a European American informant planted by the police. Similarly, an actor may portray a character of some nationality other than his or her own by adopting into the native language the phonological profile typical of the nationality to be portrayed in what is commonly called "speaking with an accent". Accents may have stereotypical associations. For example, in Disney animated films mothers and fathers typically speak with white middle class American or English accents.

Chapter 4 : It's Not About the Accent by Caridad Ferrer - FictionDB

Sporting a new name and an exotic new Latina flair, she's ready for her college debut. But is the luscious Carolina really better than plain-Jane Caroline?

Vocal fry is in the news again! Bringing to mind celebrity voices like Kim Kardashian or Zooey Deschanel, vocal fry is a result of pushing the end of words and sentences into the lowest vocal register. When forcing the voice low, the vocal folds in the throat vibrate irregularly, allowing air to slip through. The result is a low, sizzling rattle underneath the tone. Recent studies have documented growing popularity of vocal fry among young women in the United States. The findings suggest that people with this vocal affectation might want to hold the fry on the job market “ and that people on the hiring side of the table might want to examine their biases. In an article on vocal fry on NPR , the commenters persuade me that there probably actually is considerable discrimination going on. How could she miss it, considering the number of people it must cause to void the contents of their stomachs? This is the state of broadcast journalism. So much that you want to vomit? This one is even worse. A community of unconscious croakers. You hear it in interviews with young male media hipsters. Guy Raz of the Ted Radio Hour has a curious sing-song vocal fry. Awareness is the first step toward a cure. America needs mass speech therapy in the worst way. Up speak, vocal fry, and Valley Girl princess speech all constitute a national cultural emergency. On second listening, Ms. Eveleth is not that bad a fryer, mostly lapsing into it in the egg story. And fortunately, Rachel Martin is completely fry-free, and a full vocalizer. Speech therapy must be administered immediately to eradicate all variation from General American! This is all about language as a marker for class, race, and sex, and providing the excuse of subtle differences in speech as a way to publicly air prejudices. I also notice an omission. Or maybe the casual, confident, laid-back style of Snoop Dogg. Anything but the boringly level voice of standard radio announcers everywhere.

Chapter 5 : Scouse - Wikipedia

IT'S NOT ABOUT THE ACCENT is another great addition from the MTV line of books by Simon & Schuster. As with all the other books I have read from this division, the story developed quickly and pulled me right into the pages.

Chapter 6 : It's Not About the Accent - Caridad Ferrer

Product Description: Sick and tired of her life in small-town Ohio, college-bound Caroline Darcy is determined to start fresh as a new person.

Chapter 7 : Hyundai Accent | racedaydvl.com

It's Not About the Accent by Caridad Ferrer - Sporting a new name and an exotic new Latina flair, she's ready for her college debut. But is the luscious Carolina.

Chapter 8 : When Did Americans Lose Their British Accents? | Mental Floss

It's Not About The Accent By Caridad Ferrer - FictionDB. Cover art, synopsis, sequels, reviews, awards, publishing history, genres, and time period.

Chapter 9 : British Accents and Dialects | Dialect Blog

I think of my accent as Bahian, but obviously it's not quite right although good enough to sound (I assume) at least NE Brazilian (or not carioca or paulista, anyway). I wouldn't ever try to extinguish the accent I use in my adopted language.