



Voice Over 101 - INT - Paper 7

Good Voice Over / Live Speech Skills

Objective: To improve on overall voice over / speech delivery using the proper mechanical skills below.

Clarity: Speaking clearly so as to be understood fully by the other person, or the listener.

Projection / Good Mic Technique: Speaking loudly enough so that the recording is consistent and recorded at correct levels. In live venues it is also allows the entire audience, or group to hear what is said and understand your words.

Enunciation: Fully reading or “enunciating” each syllable of each word with the proper emphasis.

Dynamic Word Emphasis: The ability to place “subtle” emphasis on important words, points, and other content within your voice over, narration, or live speech for dramatic effect.

Pronunciation: The skill and ability to correctly pronounce each word, clearly and with good diction. If you do not know how to pronounce a word, or name, search google, use a audio dictionary or contact the prospect or client.

Vocal Expression: Speaking with vocal variety, emotion and vitality so the audience remains interested, and the consumer remains attentive. Very important in radio, tv, audio-books, narrations, story-telling, etc.

Tempo / Pace: The proper voice delivery or speaking speed used to convey the mood, emotion, feel of the voice over or speech.

Keep in mind: One of the most irritating habits of a voice talent or live speaker is to NOT enunciate AND speak clearly. When you do not pronounce each syllable of each word properly and the voice over is slurred, or lazy, you sound uneducated, and unprofessional. Both the listener, and viewer will not respond and the odds are the casting client will not hire you for the job, or future work. *You MUST speak clearly at all times.*

Mechanical Exercises!

Enunciation Practice:

Practice the sentences below out loud a few times each:

- I'm going to have to rethink that bid.
- Waiting to hear back from the bank is very nerve-wracking and stressful.
- Before starting my business, I looked at a lot of different business opportunities.
 - There's more to learning than just reading, writing and arithmetic.

<> Point: Did you drop any of the Gs? And did you enunciate each syllable of each word?

Tongue and Mouth Practice:

- Keeping customers content creates kingly profits.
 - Success seeds success.
- Bigger business isn't better business but better business brings bigger rewards.
 - Wanting won't win; winning ways are active ways.
 - Seventeen sales slips slithered slowly southwards.
 - Don't go deep into debt.
 - Ensuring excellence isn't simply so easy.
 - Time takes a terrible toll on intentions.

Home Practice Note:

Using a home mirror is a great way to work on “enunciation” and the motor skills above. When you’re enunciating properly, your Mouth, tongue, lips and jaw all move. Stand in front of any mirror and watch while you read: “I’m going to have to rethink that bid”. Notice how your lips retract outwards when you say “go-ing”? See how your lips open as you pronounce the “B” sound in “bid”? Do this with all tests above and watch how your mouth and jaw greatly effect how you sound. The jaw, mouth and tongue are all VERY important in the overall sound you will deliver. Try to always animate your mouth when speaking.