

Speaking Prompt for Episode 1: “The Accents Among Us”

Directions:

In this exercise, you will develop your self-monitoring and pronunciation skills by recording yourself answering a speaking prompt. Respond to one of the questions below after 30-60 seconds of planning. Record your answer with your cell phone or other recording device. You should speak for 1-2 minutes. Scan the QR Code below or go to <https://blogs.baruch.cuny.edu/jtbc/practice-speaking-and-self-monitoring-episode-1/> for episode media.

Question: (Please answer one of the following)

In episode one, Tristan and Kim speak about accents and intelligibility. In this speaking prompt, answer one of the following questions:

- Share a story about a time when you had trouble understanding a native English speaker because they had an accent you weren't familiar with. Where was the person from and what did you do to understand them?
- Tristan and Kim speak about how regional accents can be difficult to understand at times. Are there regional accents in your first language? Share a story about a time when you misunderstood someone who spoke your native language because of a regional accent.
- Were you surprised to hear that someone can have a strong accent yet be completely intelligible? What makes you feel this way? Are you determined to learn the American accent?



Self-evaluation:

1. Take a break for at least ten minutes. Now listen to your recording and take notes on the following questions to evaluate yourself.

Did you use past tense verbs when speaking in the past? If not, which verbs did you forget to change into the past tense? Fill out the chart below to correct your grammar.

The sentence I said:	Correct version of the sentence:
1.	
2.	
3.	

2. Write down at least five of the past tense verbs you used. Circle the regular verbs. Did you correctly pronounce the -ed ending for the verb you used? (/ɪd/ or /əd/, /t/, /d/)?

* Head to [Tools To-Go](#) for a review on word endings.

Word	Correct Ending (/ɪd/ and /əd/, /t/, /d/)	Pronounced Correctly? Y/N
Example: watched	/t/	No, I used the /ɪd/ ending
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

3. a. Listen to your recording once all the way to the end. Then, listen again, and write down the first thirty seconds of your recording, below.

Write the first thirty seconds of your recording:

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b. Fold this paper, give the chart below to a friend, and ask him/her to listen to the recording. Your friend should write down what you said in the first thirty seconds (don't show him/her what you wrote in part a).

Give this chart to a friend:

What do you hear? Write the first thirty seconds of the recording:

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c. Compare what you wrote down with what your friend wrote down. Are there any words or phrases that don't match? If so, why do you think there was a difference? Write a list of the words that didn't match based on the first two charts.

<i>What my partner heard</i>	<i>What I said</i>	<i>Reason for misunderstanding</i>
<i>Example: many wers</i>	<i>Example: many words</i>	<i>Example: I had dropped the /d/ ending in "words"</i>
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

4. In this episode, Kim and Tristan speak about suprasegmentals, including intonation. Intonation patterns can give you a clue into the speaker's emotions. For example, a person's voice may rise and fall quickly to indicate an energetic feeling, while a flat tone may sound like the person is bored. Using variations in one's voice to show feelings can increase intelligibility because it gives the listener a way to understand not only what the speaker is saying, but the feeling behind it. Understanding these variations can improve your pragmatic awareness and understanding of those around you. Scan the QR code on page 1 to hear the difference between energetic and bored intonation.

a. Using the emojis, circle the emotion you believe you sound closest to in your recording.

Energetic 😄 Bored 😞 Other: _____

b. Fold this paper and ask your friend's opinion of your tone in the recording. Does their opinion match the tone you were trying to use? If not, how could you change your intonation to match the emotion you intended to convey?

Give this chart to your friend:

Which emotion do you feel relates to how the speaker sounded in this recording? (Circle one)
Energetic 😄 Bored 😞 Other: _____

5. Put it all together. Based on this recording, what are three things you would like to improve about your speaking?

a. Make a list of three goals you have related to grammar and pronunciation to improve for a future prompt. For example: *My goal is to correctly pronounce the word ending for “worked” and other words that have a /t/ ending.*

<i>My three goals:</i>
1.
2.
3.

