



Confident Communication for
**FOREIGN-BORN
PROFESSIONALS**



PRESTON NI
COMMUNICATION COACHING

Also by Preston C. Ni

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“Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of other's opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary.”

— Steve Jobs

“Everybody wants to be a winner, but only a few are Willing to spend the time and energy to become one, and that separates a winner from all the rest.”

— Br. Philip Keavny

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Accent Reduction for Foreign Born Professionals

How to Speak English with Greater Clarity and Confidence

Are you a foreign born professional looking to reduce your accent? Would you like to speak North American English with greater clarity and confidence?

How are accents formed? When we're young, the muscles we utilize for speaking are more flexible, adapting easily to new speech patterns. This is why children under the age of twelve can often speak two or three languages fluently. By the time most of us reach adolescence, the muscles we use for speaking become less flexible. They form relatively rigid patterns and develop "memories" based on the movements of our native tongue.

An accent occurs when, as adults, we try to speak a new language with our old muscle patterns. For example, if you're from Singapore (or another foreign country) and speak Mandarin Chinese as your mother tongue, when you speak English you're actually speaking it with your Mandarin muscle memory. Your muscles are not used to the movements required, and cannot stretch in the directions demanded of your adopted tongue. It is this muscle inflexibility which forms your accent. The greater the pronunciation difference between your mother tongue and English, the more likely you may have an accent.

The good news is that many foreign speakers can experience a dramatic improvement in their English pronunciation. This is usually achieved in about one-hour by practicing specific exercises designed to expand the foreign speaker's existing muscle patterns. The exercises are different and customized for each foreign speaker, depending on the individual's native tongue and thickness of accent. The result is often a noticeable reduction of accent and an increase in clarity.

Here are a few tips to reduce your accent and increase pronunciation clarity:

There's more to this excerpt!

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