1. Hello and thank you for joining me in my new presentation about the Sounds found in the British accent. The course is divided into three sections: First, is the sounds of vowels. The second section is the sound of consonants and the third section is a short vocab section to help with some general pronunciations of words and phrases you should be familiar with.

My name is Alison and I am the narrator throughout the course, as you can hear I have a native British Received Pronunciation accent. Which is the accent this course focuses on. This course is designed as a personal study aid and not for use in corporate training environments. If you are a British accent trainer and would like to discuss the possibility of using this course in your teachings, please do get in touch with me at alison@thephonevoice.com. And generally please do note that this course is not to be shared or copied without my express permission.

In the course of your learning, if you do happen to come across any words or phrases that you think would e useful to be included in another audio course please do email me at alison@thephonevoice.com. Well thank you and happy learning!
VOWELS

The vowels in the English alphabet are A E I O U.

But you’ll also hear additional vowel sounds, and the different ways of spelling them.

So let’s start with the short vowel of A

A – make the sound A.
Repeat it several times so you become aware of the shape of your tongue, lips and mouth when you make the A sound.

The voice is switched on and the sound is resonated at the back of the mouth. Here are some words with the A sound:
Bag
Happy
Can
Apple
(again)

Some people have difficulty in distinguishing the difference between the sound of A and U –
Practice with these minimal pairs:
Cat / cut
Dam / dumb
Bat / but
Shatter / Shutter

(again)

The E vowel is another short vowel – E. It can also be spelt as EA.
Make the sound E.
Repeat it several times so you become aware of the shape of your tongue, lips and mouth when you make the E sound.
Here are some words with the E sound:

Bed
Elephant
Ready
Echo
Went

(again)
To help distinguish between A and E sounds, listen and repeat these minimal pairs:
Bet / Bat
Head / Hat
Peddle / Paddle
Shell / Shall

(again)

The I vowel is another short vowel. The sound can also be spelt as a Y.
Make the sound I - Repeat it several times so you become aware of the shape of your tongue, lips and mouth when you make the I sound.
Here are some words with the I sound:
Hit
Is
Gym
List

(again)

To help distinguish between I and E sounds, listen and repeat these minimal pairs:
Ship / Sheep
Hit / Heat
Live / Leave

(again)

O – The O is another short vowel. The mouth is held quite rounded and the lips are held quite forward. Make the sound O : Repeat it several times so you become aware of the shape of your tongue, lips and mouth when you make the O sound.

Here are some words with the O sound:
On
Off
Lost
Hot
Clock

(again)
U – the U is another short vowel. The sound can also be spelled as O and OU.
Make the U sound. Repeat it several times so you become aware of the shape of your tongue, lips and mouth when you make the U sound.

Here are some words with the U sound:

Up
Lunch
Money
Love

(again)

00 – The OO vowel sound is again a short vowel sound. It can also be spelt as U or OU. Make the sound OO: Repeat it several times so you become aware of the shape of your tongue, lips and mouth when you make the OO sound.

Here are some words with the OO sound:

Foot
Put
Shook
Should

Here are some minimal pairs to practice:

Look / Luke
Foot / Food
Pull / Pool

(again)

The OR vowel sound. OR is a medium length vowel sound it can also be spelt as AW, OR, AU, OUGH. Make the sound OR: Repeat it several times so you become aware of the shape of your tongue, lips and mouth when you make the OR sound.

Here are some words with the OR sound:

Saw
Door
Thought
Autumn

(again)
Here are some minimal pairs to practice:
Caught / Cot
Dawn / Dot
Short / Shot
Awful / Offal

(again)

The OE vowel sound – again OE is a medium vowel sound. It can also be spelt as O, OE, OA, OW, OUGH.
Make the sound OE, Repeat it several times so you become aware of the shape of your tongue, lips and mouth when you make the OE sound.

Here are some words with the OE sound:
Nose
Flow
Though
Phone
Pony

(again)

The IE vowel sound, again IE is a medium vowel sound. It can also be spelt as I, IE, IGH, Y.
Make the sound IE - Repeat it several times so you become aware of the shape of your tongue, lips and mouth when you make the IE sound.

Here are some words with the IE sound:
Pie
Crime
Behind
Sigh

(again)
The OY vowel sound, again OY is a medium vowel sound. It can also be spelt as OI.
Make the sound OY - Repeat it several times so you become aware of the shape of your tongue, lips and mouth when you make the OY sound.

Here are some words with the OY sound:

Boy
Toy
Loyal
Ointment
Point

(again)

Here are some minimal pairs to practice:

Toil / Tile
Boy / Buy
Boil / Bile

The AY vowel sound. Again AY is a medium vowel sound. It can also be spelled AI, EIGH, EI and AE
Make the sound AY - Repeat it several times so you become aware of the shape of your tongue, lips and mouth when you make the AY sound.

Here are some words with the AY sound:

Rain
Paper
Straight
Came
(again)

The OW vowel sound. OW is a long vowel sound. It can also be spelt OU, OW, OUGH. Make the sound OW - Repeat it several times so you become aware of the shape of your tongue, lips and mouth when you make the OW sound.

Here are some words with the OW sound:

Now
Brown
Clown
About
(again)
The OO vowel sound. Again OO is a long vowel sound it can also be spelt as, O, OU, OUGH, EW, UI. Make the sound OO - Repeat it several times so you become aware of the shape of your tongue, lips and mouth when you make the OO sound.

Here are some words with the OO sound:

Food
Soup
Drew
You

(again)

Here are some minimal pairs to practice:

Book / Boo
Foot / Food
Pull / Pool

(again)

The AR vowel sound. Again it is a long vowel sound. It can also be spelt as A. Make the sound AR - Repeat it several times so you become aware of the shape of your tongue, lips and mouth when you make the AR sound.

Here are some words with the AR sound:

Park
Card
Garden
Class
After

(again)
The EE vowel sound. Again EE is a long vowel sound. It can also be spelt as EA, IE, EI. It is made by moving the lips into a wide smile position – EE. Make the sound EE - Repeat it several times so you become aware of the shape of your tongue, lips and mouth when you make the EE sound.

Here are some words with the EE sound:

See
Receive
Seem
Meet
Key

(again)

Practice speaking long and short vowel words to hear and feel the difference:

Sheep / Ship
Been / Bin
Leave / Live
Meet / Mit

(again)
We are now going to move onto the second section which covers the consonant sounds found in the British accent. I’m going to start with pairing up some of the consonants that sound similar. So first we’ll start with the consonants of B and P.

The B sound is made in a similar way to P. Close your lips together and pop the lips open by pushing the air out. It’s a voiced sound. Practice making the sound B and repeat the B words several times so you become aware of the shape of your tongue, lips and mouth when you make the B sound.

Back
Borrow
club
describe
vegetable
bull
big,
bin,
bowl

P is made by closing the lips together gently then popping the lips by pushing air out between them. Practice making the sound P and repeat the P words several times so you become aware of the shape of your tongue, lips and mouth when you make the P sound.

pull,
pig
pin
pole
pie
paper
keep
envelope
The B words again:
Back
Borrow
club
describe
vegetable
bull
big,
bin,
bowl

And the P sounds:
pull,
pig
pin
pole
pie
paper
keep
envelope
D and T

D is a voiced sound made by holding the front of the tongue up just behind your top front teeth. Touch your tongue up to this area and then drop it quickly – the movement is light and quick:

Practice with these words:

dog,
door,
introduce,
wanted,
hard,
describe,
die,
down,
dime

The T sound is made in pretty much the same way:

total,
telephone,
hat,
tie,
town,
time.

Again it is produced lightly and quickly.
total,
telephone,
hat,
tie,
town,
time.

Repeat the D and T words again:

die - tie
down - town
dime – time
G an K

G is the voiced minimal pair of the K sound.

Here are some G words:
gold,
good,
goat,
ground,
ger,
egative,
bigger,
angry

Now the K sound – the K sound can also be spelt as C, CK, QUE, QU, CH.
Here are some K words:

Kind,
cat,
close,
pocket,
cheque,
Kate,
could

Listen to the G and the K words again:

Gold / Cold
Good / Could
negative
pocket
angry
V & F

The V sound is made by placing the top front teeth over the bottom lip - then blowing out of the mouth gently - V

Practice:
vacant,
vegetables,
move,
active,
van,
vine,
very

Now try the F sound which can also be spelt PH and GH.

furniture,
offer,
fan,
rough,
photo,
fine,
ferry,
enough,
family

Listen to the V & F sounds again:

van / fan
very/ferry
vine / fine
The TH consonant - there are 2 sounds of the TH consonant a unvoiced and a voiced sound.

First the unvoiced - this is the quiet sound where just the air is heard - th

Here are some words that use this sound -

both, tooth, wealthy nothing, thunder, thigh, third

The voiced pair of TH sounds like this "TH"

this, these, that, weather, soothe, other,

you may feel your teeth tingle or vibrate as you do this.

this, these, that, weather, soothe, other
SH and ZH

SH - this is the sound we make when telling people to be quiet: sh. The sound can also be spelt S, TI, CI, SI, CH

shade,
English,
rubbish,
station,
shut,
shock,
sheet,
sharp

ZH - this is the voiced minimal pair consonant of SH - can also be spelled SI and SU

Asia,
Malaysia,
pleasure,
television
Z and S

Z is the voiced minimal pair consonant to S. Hold your teeth gently together & lips pulled sideways into a smile - Z

Here are some Z words:
zero ,
zone,
horizon,
frozen,
buzz

S is made by gently closing the teeth together and the lips pulled sideways into a smile position. The air is forced out to make a hissing sound

somebody,
stop,
slowly,
sock,
sausage,
house,

Z Words:
zero ,
zone,
horizon,
frozen,
buzz

S Words:
somebody,
stop,
slowly,
sock,
sausage,
house,
J & CH

J is the minimal pair of CH - made in the same way except it’s a voiced consonant. Can also be spelt as G, DGE

Here are some J words:
- joke,
- journey,
- manager,
- average,
- George,
- agent

Ch is made by almost closing the teeth together, put tongue on the gum ridge behind the front top teeth and then move it back and down slightly - ch

Practice these Words:
- chair,
- chain,
- kitchen,
- bench,
- sandwich,
- much,
- chew,
- achievement
M is a voiced consonant. Lips are closed and the sound resonates in the nose & throat - M

Words with the m sound are:
make, 
mile, 
market, 
farm, 
dream, 
woman, 
swimming

If you get confused between the M and N sounds practice and repeat these words:
tine / time 
cane . come 
sane . same 
hone . home

N
To make the n sound lift the tongue to the centre of the ridge behind the front top teeth, open the mouth slightly and push the tongue up and let the sound resonate out of your nose. Use your voice at the same time

Can also be spelt as KN, GN and PN
Words are:
news, 
knock, 
not, 
nose, 
mountain, 
common, 
information.

NG - the G sound isn’t pronounced when saying this sound:
Raise the back part of your tongue up towards the soft back part of your palette . Resonate the sound from your nose and voice at the same time. 
belong, 
song, 
angry, 
long, 
ringing
W - can also be spelt WH

Put your lips forward as if to kiss someone to make this sound.

weather,
whale,
twice,
west,
however,
when

H - the sound is of the air 'sighing' out. It is a quiet sound:

holiday,
hear,
ahead,
exhale,
humour,
somehow

(again)

L - raise the tongue, curl it slightly and hold it onto the ridge - L

late,
full,
climb,
glad,
television,
telephone,
loudly,
colour

For words that end with L, try and raise the tongue tip to the l position briefly to finish saying the word:

Practise with these:
will,
feel,
still,

(again)
R - also spelt as WR. Lift the tongue up as if to touch the highest point of roof of your mouth but leave a space between them - R

radio, really, round, ring, road, garage, break, screen, strong

If you have difficulty between saying L words and R words, practice these:

lie - rye lip- rip long – wrong

(again)

Y is a voiced consonant.

yacht, yellow, yen, yourself, yoghurt, yo yo
And now onto the third and final section. This section is General Vocabulary.

Greetings:

hello,
hi,
good morning
good afternoon
good evening
good night
good bye
how are you
nice to meet you
how can I help you

The Days of the Week:
Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

The Months of the Year:
January
February
March
April
May
June
July
August
September
October
November
December

Season:

Winter,
Spring,
Summer,
Autumn
Numbers between one and twenty
One
Two
Three
Four
Five
Six
Seven
Eight
Nine
Ten
Eleven
Twelve
Thirteen
Fourteen
Fifteen
Sixteen
Seventeen
Eighteen
Nineteen
Twenty

Equipment Found in the Office Environment:

computer,
telephone,
monitor,
fax machine,
email,
website,
laptop
answer machine,
photo copier,
keyboard,
pen,
pencils,
notebook,
hard drive,
CD,
DVD,
USB stick,
desk,
chair,
coffee machine,
white board,
black board,
mobile phone,
printer
Thank you for watching and listening. I do hope you found the presentation useful. For further information please email alison@thephonevoice.com or visit the learning British accent blogspot: http://learningbritishaccent.blogspot.com