

Voice and Speech Analysis:
An Expansion on the Elements of Dialect Acquisition
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1. POSTURE or FOCUS

Where is the tension held? What parts are relaxed?

- Jaw (raised/relaxed/forward)
- Teeth (apart/open)
- Lips (relaxed/tense/lateral pull/forward/upper lip held up)
- Cheeks (tense/relaxed)
- Tongue (relaxed/tense/retroflex/pushed forward/retracted/side edges higher than midline)
- Space between palate and tongue
- Space in pharynx (open/"pear-shaped"/closed)

Vocal Quality or focus

- Nasal
- Closed/Open throat (pear shaped)
- Abrasive
- Breathly
- Creaky
- Bright/forward

Register

- Pitch is high/low, relaxed/tense for speaker
- Speaks in head voice/chest voice

2. BREATH PATTERNS

Intake of breath

- Quick shallow breath/ Long deep breath
- Silent or noisy intake, relaxed or tense intake (which muscles tense up?)
- Regular relaxed pattern/quick catch up breaths in middle of sentence
- Ingressive speech

Exhalation

- Squeezed/supported
- Breathes out before begins to speak/breathes in and speaks immediately
- Sighs out in between sentences

3. STRESS, INTONATION, and RHYTHM:

Emphasis

- Stressing syllables (volume/rate)
- Stressing pitch
- Elongating vowels/diphthongs
- General Volume (loud or soft)

Pitch pattern

- Start slow/build up/sink (American)

- Start high/swoop down/vary pitch/end high (RP British)
- Rate/Rhythm
- Slow or fast overall
 - Slow or fast inside/between words
 - Use of pauses in between words/phrases (how filled? With breath/voiced fillers)

4. WORD CHOICE

- unusual phrases
- idioms
- slang
- expletives
- grammar changes:

5. SUBSTITUTIONS:

VOWELS

IPA	Dictionary	Key words	=	Substitutions
i		Lee, need, seal		
ɪ		Will, is, window		
ɛ		Let, end, step		
æ		Ann, can, pat		
a		Pass, ask, dance		
ɜ		Turn, early, certain		
ə		Over, mother, actor		
ə		The, honest, above		
ʌ		Cup, luck, love		
u		Who, noon, school		
ʊ		Would, look, put		
o		Obey, poetic, romantic		
ɔ		All, Paul, law		
ɒ		Honest, off, long		
ɑ		Fathers, drama, large		

* examples are based on the Non-Regional American Dialect (NRAD)—a contemporary variation on Skinner's "Speak with Distinction."

DIPHTHONGS				
ou		Go, own, most		
ei		Pay, ache, save		
ai		My, I, nice		
oi		Boy, oil, royal		
au		Now, pound, around		
ju		Beautiful, music, few		

CONSONANT SUBSTITUTIONS:				
p		Pop, hope, appeal		
b		Bob, grab, fabulous		
t		Taught, great, fated		
d		Dad, food, radical		
k		Kick, cake, exclude		
g		Gag, dig, argue		
n		None, seen, sentence		
ŋ		Sing, ringing, having		
f		Fife, safe, fifty, phone		
v		Very, live, every		
s		Sister, pass, face		
z		Zones, buzz, loses		
θ		Thin, thought, with, method		
ð		This, that, smooth, mother		
ʃ		Show, fish, direction		
ʒ		Pleasure, treasure, beige		
h		How, hello, who, inhale		
r		Roar, rear, foreign		
l		Lily, still, follow		
ʍ		Where, why, what		

w		Wow, win, growl		
j		Yes, yellow, you		
tʃ		Church, picture, question		
dʒ		Judge, joy, manage, region		