

ACCENTS, INC.

A TEN MINUTE MONOLOGUE

By **John C. Havens**

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CAST: one male or female

AT RISE: Performer comes out to center stage and addresses the audience as if they were part of his/her class. If desired, they can come out with a clipboard, or just pretend to hold a piece of paper where they can check off names, etc. This character should do these accents well; the performer will be shown off better if they are skillful doing dialects. However, this character is a bit egotistical, and obviously goes about teaching these dialects in a highly unorthodox fashion. It should be noted the performer should bring out the irony in his/her teaching style, and should never appear as mean or malicious. HE/SHE just has very particular ideas and feels strongly about them.

PETERS

(In a British dialect, highly and somewhat pompous)

Hello, hello, yes, shall we settle...please people? Good, good. All seated and ready to learn, are we? Excellent. Oh, I see we have a few rambunctious types in the back who want to continue while **(MR. MS.)** Peters is trying to run **(his/her)** class.

(in a harsh Brooklyn dialect in a loud voice)

WELL, STOW IT CHEESEHEADS! TIME TO PARK YOUR KEISTER AND ZIP YOUR FLAPPIN' GUMS FORE I COME UP THERE AND DO IT FOR YUS!

(Back to British)

That was a little taste of a "Brooklyn" accent. Very useful for situations where you want to cut right to the point. We'll work on that one later.

Well, then. Let's start at the beginning as starting at the end would mean I would have to talk backwards. Which I can do, but I'm not sure you'd understand it. It understand you'd think you do? So think didn't I.

(chuckles to him/herself)

This is Accents, Incorporated. Today I'll be giving you a varied overview of how to speak over a half dozen different accents. I promise you you won't forget my methodology. First off, is there anyone here ***(looks at paper/clipboard)*** who's in the wrong class? This class is for learning different dialects, or "Accents". If you wanted the class, "Axe Scents", or "Making your hatchet smell minty", you're in the wrong room.

(back to Brooklyn) SO GED OUDDA HEAH! VAMOOSE!

Excellent. Well, I'm guessing many of you are aspiring actors, or "thespians," as we call them in the business, or you're hoping to be familiar with accents because a loved one or friend speaks in an accent and you have no idea at all what they're saying. Muy bien. Now, that was Spanish. Actual Spanish, not an accent. I'm afraid I won't be teaching you a whole new language today. That would take at LEAST two sessions.

Let's jump right in, shall we? Now, you'll be doing these exercises along with me, and you may have to stand in your seat, so don't be shy, all right?

(Brooklyn) IN UDDER WORDS, WHEN I SAY JUMP, YOU SAY "NO PROBLEM."

(HE/SHE will actually try to get the audience to do these exercises with him/her.)

Right, then. Let's start with a British dialect, like the one I'm faking. I mean speaking! Speaking. There are hundreds of different dialects, so let's start with London, shall we?

Right, then. If you would be so kind, please stand in your seats and do this motion with me.

(HE/SHE makes a huge show of sipping a non-existent cup of tea with his/ her pinkie raised high in the air)

We are sipping our tea. Very British. You'll notice my pinkie is extended high in the air whilst I drink. Why do we do this, you may ask. Is it because the handle is too small for our fingers? Not at all. It's because the British are snotty. Say that with me in a British dialect.

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