

NEUTRAL AMERICAN and VOCAL USE

LISTENING SELF-ASSESSMENT

Listen to the “baseline” mp3 recording of yourself speaking the following drills from Edith Skinner’s Speak With Distinction. Alone, or with a partner to assist, complete the following questions:

1. How would you describe the overall quality of your voice? (i.e., nasal, breathy, etc. If you need a refresher on the “Attributes of Voice,” refer to the Anatomy powerpoint on IVR.)
2. Identify specifically which phrases with which you used linking, and which ones you did not.
3. In column B, transcribe into Broad IPA how you heard yourself pronounce each phrase. In column C, transcribe each phrase into Neutral American.

A	B	C
Green fields		grɪn fɪldz
Fleeing sheep		fli ɪŋ ʃi:p
Imagine enough		ɪ mæ dʒɪn ɪ nʌf
Ethel and Emma		ɛ θəl ænd ɛ mə

Engage the stage		ɪn geɪdʒ ðə steɪdʒ
Fair haired Mary		fɛə heəd mɛ ri
Ann's Hand		ænz hænd
I can't dance		aɪ kænt dæns
Desire fire		dɪ zʌɪə faɪə
School shoes		skul ʃuz
Absolute opportunity		æb sə lut ə pɔə tu ni ti
Pull wool		pʊl wʊl
Poor rural tour		pʊə rʊ rəl tuə
Obey Olivia		ə beɪ ə lɪ vi ə
Water for daughter		wɔ tə fɔə dɔ tə
John's office		dʒɔnz ə fis
Far car		fɑ kɑə
Our hours		ɑʊə ɑʊəz

Contrary secretary		kan trɛ rɪ sɛk rə te rɪ
Did you would you could you William?		dɪd ju wʊd ju kʊd ju wɪl jəm
Can't you won't you don't you William?		kænt ju wəʊnt ju daʊnt ju wɪl jəm

4. What else do you notice?

5. What will you incorporate into your weekly practice?

