

SLPs and Foreign Accent Reduction

By Ana Paula G. Mummy, MS, CCC-SLP

Course Description:

This program is designed to help speech/language pathologists work with individuals who speak with mild, moderate or severe accents and desire to sound less foreign or nonstandard. It will enable SLPs to develop a foreign accent reduction program for the reduction or elimination of any particular accent by non-native English speakers or for the neutralization of a regional accent by native English speakers. In either case, the goal is to attain conformity to the standard English dialect. This program provides a brief overview of English phonology, prosody, and grammar as they pertain to nonstandard English speakers. It also addresses evaluation techniques and outlines the necessary components of a foreign accent reduction program, including therapy structure, duration and goals, therapy ideas and activities, and available resources.

Instructional level: Intermediate

Course Objectives:

Participants will:

1. Understand English phonology, prosody, grammar, and conversational speech as they relate to nonstandard English speakers.
2. Know how to evaluate individuals with regional or foreign accents.
3. Be able to develop an effective foreign accent reduction program with appropriate therapy goals and activities.

Course Outline: (for half day option)

8:00-8:15	Introduction
8:15-8:45	Nonstandard English Speakers and Spoken Language Markers
8:45-9:20	Evaluating Nonstandard English Patterns
9:20-9:30	<i>Break</i>
9:30-10:00	Case Studies
10:00-10:50	Therapy Structure and Goals <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Activities for Phonology and Awarenessb. Activities for Stress and Intonationc. Activities for Grammard. Versatile Activities
10:50-11:00	<i>Break</i>
11:00-11:45	Therapy (<i>cont'd</i>) and Resources

11:45-12:00 Q & A

Speaker Biography:

Ana Paula G. Mummy, MS, CCC-SLP is a trilingual speech/language pathologist who has worked in a variety of settings for over eight years. She has developed many therapy tools for both English-speaking and Spanish-speaking children of all ages. Ana Paula is also a workshop presenter, the author of *Articulation Strategies That Work!*, an instructional book/CD/DVD set for correcting sounds frequently in error among school-age children, and the author of two online courses dealing with multicultural issues. Ana Paula currently works as a school-based SLP and also provides consulting and contract services for school districts needing assistance with bilingual populations. In the words of one of her colleagues, *“Ana Paula is passionate about the young people she serves, and she has developed numerous tools and activities to assess and meet their needs. She has always been ready and willing to assist her peers. The development of her website, products, and training seminars is a testimony to her commitment to high quality resources for the SLP community. SLPs and other educators will appreciate the wealth of knowledge Ana Paula possesses and so generously shares.”*