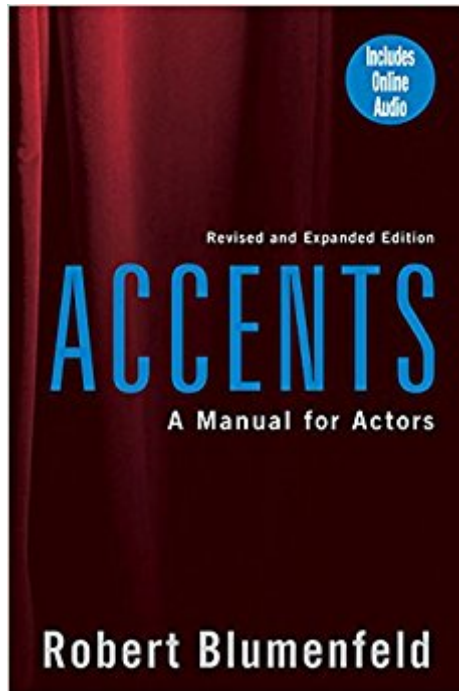




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Accents: A Manual For Actors- Revised And Expanded Edition



Synopsis

Note: This ASIN doesn't include a CD. (Limelight). This practical reference manual, with its precise, authentic instructions on how to speak in more than 100 dialects, has established itself as the most useful and comprehensive guide to accents available, now increased by a third in this revised printing. As before, the accents range from regional U.S. and British dialects to European accents that include, among others, the Germanic, Slavic and Romance Languages. Completing his around-the-world journey, the author then covers the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Online audio is accessed at halleonard.com/mylibrary

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Customer Reviews

Do not buy this as an ebook. An audio CD reportedly comes with the print version and online examples are supposed to be available at the Hal Leonard website. However, the website asks for a code to be entered that it says is only available on page 1 of each individually printed book. The Kindle version of this book does not contain this code which reduces its usefulness. Neither nor Hal Leonard were helpful in securing the promised audio examples. If you still must have this book, buy the physical print version if you can verify that it comes with the CDs. Otherwise, I recommend a far superior book that comes with 12 CDs: *Accents & Dialects For Stage and Screen* by Paul Meier. It is awesome and Meier is a contemporary dialect coach who has been at this in the industry for years and is still doing it. You can even arrange a Skype session with him. The accents are not forced, like they appear to be with examples I've seen on YouTube by the author of the Manual for

Actors book.

The discs are probably almost or more important than the text itself if you're trying to learn accents. Some of the accents don't seem terribly accurate (like the Asian ones) but there is a dearth of material on Asian and Middle Eastern accents. You can save money by buying used copies of this book, but some or both of the CD's are often missing. Here are the contents of the CD's (with practice phrases) if you're looking for specific accents. CD1 (Red): British RP, London and Cockney, English Provincial, Irish, Scottish, Welsh, India and Sri Lanka, Australia and New Zealand, Caribbean, American 1900's Upper Class, Southern US, Northern US, Canadian, French CD2 (Blue)

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The exercises and examples in this book are great, and there's no better resource for accents really available anywhere, but the necessary exercises on the CD are difficult to navigate because the tracks are broken down by chapter. This leads to lots of fast forwarding and rewinding to focus on specific exercises for a specific accent. For example, on a 6 minute track, there is 45 seconds of Chicago accent practice that is mixed with other Midwest accents, New York accents and others, which means fast forwarding and rewinding to repeat the exercise- not an effective use of time.

The book is heavy. If you're a scientist or a professor then you will probably enjoy the book. However, I found myself being overloaded w/ very detailed information & had difficulty focusing, but that's me. The audio, on the other hand, is worth the \$20 in my opinion. Now that's something I can grasp. For clarification, it says that it comes w/ two cd's, but what it's really saying is that you can download them via a code that comes w/ the book.

Blumenfeld is a master of at least two things, important to the professional (or beginner!) voice artist. 1. He knows what he's talking about. 2. He is expert at teaching it. I've used many "How To . . ." books, many of which fell short of my needs, but Robert Blumenfeld takes the voice artist through from beginning to polished in just about any current accent or dialect you may need. I don't give five stars lightly. But, Robert Blumenfeld's "Accents" has earned it!!

I used this book to create a standard RP accent for a character. As the author says, producing an accent for stage isn't a matter of simple imitation, but of developing a unique accent that suits a particular character. This book was helpful for me as a guide on how to make decisions about this

character's accent, from resonance to vowel shapes to cadence and pitch. I found it very easy to use the book, though learning to read the phonetic alphabet will help you a lot with this. I had a particularly hard time with the "o" sound in "no," (a crucial sound in Received Pronunciation) and the book gave me the information and exercises I needed to nail it. It also lists movies to watch with good accents to listen to, another resource I found helpful in making decisions about my character's accent. If your aim is strict imitation, this might not be the book you're looking for, but if you want a resource that will help you create an appropriate, believable accent that doesn't distract the audience, I think you'll find no better book.

Excellent resource. He knows so much about how to give you an analysis of a dialect. He also is extremely well read and adds in lots of tidbits in his chapters. I think it's a good read in general because he writes really. If you never learned an accent you'd get a great learning experience from his book. The CD is an invaluable aid in learning dialects.

Robert Blumenfeld has spent years collecting the very essence of different accents. He tells you how to position your mouth, tongue and lips to create the sounds that mimic accents from all over the world. It takes a bit of time to understand why you make the sounds that you do while you're speaking, but once that work has been done you know what to change to create the accent that you are going for. Robert includes specific instructions on which syllable to stress and how the tone of your voice should rise and fall during a sentence. This manual is not for the faint of heart - it takes practice and perseverance to get through the book, but for a serious actor looking to add accents to their performance this is the book for you!

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