

Star Pronunciation Video Tip #2

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Hi there, and welcome back for another quick tip for speaking English more clearly and more like a native speaker.

In this tip today I'd like to talk to you a little bit about how we move our jaw and mouth when we speak English. In many other languages like Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese, Russian and Polish they use a more close mouth position than English. In English we move our mouth quite a lot and we need to open and close our jaw to make many sounds, for example the sounds OU, OR and R all have quite open mouth position. You will see when I say those, than you can actually see inside my mouth, my teeth open a little bit.

Many of my non native speaking clients come to me and they are speaking English like this. They're not opening their mouth and they're hardly moving their lips. Now that is very unclear, isn't it? So what I just said was that many of my non native clients come to me and they're not moving their jaw and they're not moving their lips and that in English is called mumbling. Mumbling - and it's very unclear. A lot of native speakers mumble too and they're also unclear. So we need to make sure you are not mumbling, OK? We need to make sure that you are moving your jaw and your lips when you speak English.

So over the next few days I'd like you to think about it a little bit more. Shift your awareness to your mouth, focus on the feeling, the movements of your mouth as you speak.

Are you opening your jaw?

Are you moving your lips when you speak English?

Maybe you'll find that you are using same mouth position in English as you use when you speak your first language. And that's what we need to change, OK?

So over the next few days, I'd like you to focus on moving and opening your mouth when you speak English. I have a little exercise for you. Every morning when you get out of bed, when you're either getting dressed or in the shower, I'd like you to say this phrase five times, moving and opening your mouth, OK?

The phrase is

"I saw 66 farmers laughing on the phone".

Remember to get your jaw moving and move your lips.

"I saw 66 farmers laughing on the phone"

So remember, open the jaw, move the lips, get your tongue moving. It's a great way to wake up your mouth and get it into English mode every morning. Ready?

"I saw 66 farmers laughing on the phone".

And again:

“I saw 66 farmers laughing on the phone”

“I saw 66 farmers laughing on the phone”

Do it in front of the mirror. Check you're opening and moving, OK? Check you're not using a Mandarin mouth position, or a Japanese mouth position, or a Russian mouth position.

Check that you're using good movements for English. Good luck!

NOTE:

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