

Accent Books & CD's:

How To Do Accents by Edda Sharpe & Jan Hayden Rowles: thorough approach to learning accents and dialects with a focus on shifting sounds from your natural voice to the dialect. There is also an app available with accent recordings available to purchase that have the approach laid out with each speaker.

Paul Meier: Accents & Dialects for Stage and Screen: excellent 7 Step method for all the major dialects most commonly employed for films and plays; really good practice materials (phrases; monologues) his dialect cd's also available on online (I-Tunes) if you don't want to buy the whole collection

Gillian Lane-Plescia CD's: cd's offer a brief but thorough approach to the dialect as well as a great selection of native speakers; recommended for U.K. dialects especially

Gwyneth Strong & Penny Dyer CD's: Booklet has an excellent breakdown of the accent that provide oral posture and sound shifts as well as practice sentences. As with Paul Meier: great too to learn or improve upon phonetic knowledge

Accents: A Manual for Actors by Robert Blumenfeld,: controversial approach but has the widest variety of dialects of any known source; good for getting a broad picture of a particular dialect, where dialects share sounds and differ, and for finding a start on dialects that don't typically have a lot of resources, like Albanian or Mongolian

David Alan Stern Books & CD's : thorough approach to dialects with a an excellent understanding of sound shifts and vocal posture. Practice booklet reads quickly with accompanying practice cd

The Dialect Handbook by Ginny Kopf: good approach on how to work with an accent and dialect with large lists of suggestions of film and tv resources for each a variety of dialects

Websites:

The International Dialects of English Archive (IDEA)
www.dialectsarchive.com

International inventory of recorded speakers. Also includes miscellaneous, valuable resources (including pronunciation of Chekhov characters)

Speech Accent Archive
accent.gmu.edu

Recorded native speakers as well as phonetic inventories for a very wide variety of accents

Visual Accent & Dialect Archive
www.visualaccentdialectarchive.com

Videos of native speakers from a decent range of regional background (the site is fairly new); most videos feature a close-up on the mouth to aid in learning vocal posture

The British Library Accents & Dialects Collection
sounds.bl.uk/Accents-and-dialects

Collection of U.K. dialects with a variety of recordings and learning resources

North American English Dialects

<http://aschmann.net/AmEng/>

A fascinating compendium of American accent knowledge by self-professed “collector of accents” Rick Aschmann. Includes links to sound clips by State, dialect maps, and detailed information for particular U.S. cities.

Forvo

www.forvo.com

Focused on specific word pronunciation; very helpful if characters have lines in native language

Wikipedia

Yes....Wikipedia. Surprisingly, most articles on particular dialects have a thorough view of the dialect, including sound shifts, history, areas of use, etc.

YouTube/VIMEO/etc.

What to look for: accent tags (use your best judgement), news stories, film & tv clips (sometimes whole tv series are available), national anthems (the you tube channel "DeroVolk" has the national anthems of every country), interviews

What to avoid: videos that people make for fun or where they're trying out the accent

Bottom line: *Use Your Best Discretion*

English Tongue Twisters

www.uebersetzung.at/twister/en.htm

Over 500 tongue twisters to aid in articulation and to focus on particular sound shifts

Film & TV Resources:

Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, etc.: Hulu in particular has a great collection of international television shows and documentaries. Consider watching and hearing actors who are working with dialects that is not natively in addition to a native speaker

Other Fun Things To Try:

- Ideal: Find someone who naturally speaks with the accent or dialect and record them
- Dating Your Dialect: Taking your dialect out on a date: shopping, to a museum, ordering food at a restaurant, even just ordering fast food at the intercom, etc.; places you yourself don't frequent
- Devise your own practice phrases. Here's one of mine: Adam was trapped with a panda in Athens.
- A Character Music Playlist including A.) Popular music from the country of origin B.) The national anthem C.) The character's favorite songs from outside their country of origin
- Portraiture by artists from where the dialect is heard; view them and imagine what they might sound like; fun and useful exercise particularly for mouth setting
- Reading poetry by poets from where the dialect is heard
- Podcasts & Radio shows from the country of origin
- Non-English: Familiarity with the original language; provides insight into why certain sound substitutions are the way they are
- Cook something from the dialect's native region and describe the process and the taste in your dialect
- Call the department of tourism/information/a similar entity of the place you're trying to do the accent of. Rather hit or miss, but worth a try!