

APPENDIX

3-6

ACT Diagnostic Passage

Although children can easily learn to speak a second language with a native accent, adults are not as fortunate. Every language has different sounds and speaking patterns, and learners have to readjust their mouths and minds in order to adapt. The following are some useful tips for improving your pronunciation. First, familiarize yourself with the sounds of the new language. Don't worry about how the words are written; trust your ears and not your eyes. If a certain sound is hard to make, work until you get it right. Second, talk to native speakers or record their voices, listening closely to their intonation, phrasing, and stress. Finally, keep a record of your progress to help you stay motivated and focused. Keep in mind that the path to learning to speak a second language with a clear and natural accent can be difficult, but it is well worth the effort.