

# Vocal Warm Ups and Character development

## Voice

-Stretch, touch toes-three deep breathes-relaxing with each breathe, roll up slow

- Breathing, one arm up and stretch overhead,  
(nasal) Hey yay yay  
(normal) La La La  
(throat) Tah, Tah, Tah

-Isolators

-The Lips

Fish (pop)

Horse (pppp)

Motor Boat (wwwww)

Lip Drill

paypaypay paypaypay paypaypay Pah

baybaybay baybaybay baybaybay Bah

maymaymay maymaymay maymaymay Mah

-Hard Palate

Fly (zzzzz)

Snake (sssssss)

Palette Drill

Zayzayzay zayzayzay zayzayzay Zah

Saysaysay saysaysay saysaysay Sah

-Tip Of The Tongue

Laylaylay Laylaylay Laylaylay Lah

Taytaytay Taytaytay Taytaytay Tah

Daydayday Daydayday Daydayday Dah

Naynaynay naynaynay naynaynay Nah

-Back of Tongue

Jungle Heartbeat (NhhGuh)

Drill

Kaykaykay Kaykaykay Kaykaykay Kah

Gaygaygay gaygaygay gaygaygay Gah

-General

The tip of the tongue

The roof of the mouth

The lips and the teeth

**-Diction three times each**

-Red Leather Yellow Leather

-Toy Boat

- Mr. Bobalena, Mr. Bob Bobalena

- Despite the mists and chilling frost he thrusts his fists against the posts  
and still insists he sees the ghosts

## Vocal Warm Ups and Character development

With feeling

*Harsh:* Hey Harry, how come Helga hates your hide, huh?

*Mellow:* May tomorrow mean more music and magical memories.

*Thin:* Think thankful thoughts throughout your thrashing,  
Theodore.

*Full:* Ferdinand's final fanfare filled and overflowed the farthest  
foothills.

*Light:* Lovely Lili looks luminous in lace and lurid in lame'.

*Dark:* Don't dare double cross Dolorous or you die.

*Husky:* Hey hot stuff, how's about holding hands?

*Nasal:* Nadine is nowhere near normal.

*Strident:* So far, season sales simply suck Sam.

*Resonant:* Raoul reveled in Rio with the ravishing Ramona

*Large:* Laurence loves to laugh and longs to live.

*Small:* Silly, shy Suzy sat stiffly at sorority sing along.

*Breathy:* Baby wants a big blue Buick, boys.

*Hoarse:* Watching Harry's horrible Hamlet hurts my hernia.

Glissando

Start low slowly rise/start high slowly lower-work crack

## Character Voice Development

Some Development hints

Try impersonations of famous people, the worse you do the better. Now, use that voice for a character of a different sex, age, lifestyle, whatever.

Channel surf the TV and imitate it as fast as you can. Don't stay on any channel for more than 15 seconds. Record yourself doing this then listen back for good character voices.

When developing a dialect don't use dialect tapes. Instead use the internet to find foreign radio broadcasts and imitate the voice even if you don't know the language.

**Once you have a voice** give it a key phrase and memorize it. This will help you access the voice when you need it.

# Vocal Warm Ups and Character development

Character Name \_\_\_\_\_

Character Source \_\_\_\_\_

Key Phrase

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Comments (physical)

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## VOICE ELEMENTS

Pitch (hi/lo, range, wide/narrow) \_\_\_\_\_

Pitch Characteristics (coloring, tone, smooth, gravelly, pinched, raspy...)

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Tempo (speed of speech) \_\_\_\_\_

Rhythm (lilting, pedantic, staccato)

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Placement (where voice seems to be coming from in you) \_\_\_\_\_

Mouth Work (what you do to your mouth, odd pronunciations, accents...)

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## Vocal Warm Ups and Charater development

Voice emotions (pick one from each column):

Character	Style	Dialect
Tough guy	AM announcer – frantic	Regional American
Starlet	FM announcer – mellow	Southern
Little kid	Country	New England
Sick person (cold, sore throat, fever, headache)	Deity	Midwest
Farmer	Romantic	Bronx
Cowboy	Rapper	New Jersey
Snob	Vivacious	California
Wimp	Old-timer	Surfer
Executive	Hipster	Valley Girl
Secretary	Dracula	Texas
Homemaker	Santa Claus	South Western
Society Woman	Witch	Hispanic
Sexy	Fairy tale characters	British Isles
Greaser	Disney Character	Cultured
Airhead	Cartoon Character	Cockney
Dock Worker		Scottish
Adolescent		Irish
Grandparent		Middle Eastern
		East Indian
		French
		German
		Italian
		Slavic
		African
		Asian
		Chinese
		Japanese
		Vietnamese

Read a couple paragraphs from a magazine or newspaper in the voice emotion you've selected.