



17 June 2009

Annie and Trevor Boulton
boultonsMultimedia
P O Box
Hervey Bay QLD 4

Dear Annie and Trevor

Re: Mouth Gym – English Pronunciation Training Software

On behalf of Australian Accent and Pronunciation, I am delighted to enthusiastically endorse the Mouth Gym, English Pronunciation Training Software.

The MouthGym Software is an interactive, accent and pronunciation training package. The software features multi-media videos of Australian English that allow students to hear and see how English is pronounced. The foundation phonics are provided in written, spoken and visual modes. Essentially this software can play the role of a personal tutor, correctly modelling Australian English pronunciation. It provides the exercises necessary to strengthen and develop flexibility in the mouth and tongue muscles, which is essential to produce the sounds that do not exist in other languages.

Over the past five years, I have been providing private tuition to people who speak English as a second language, from business, academia and the general community, using the Mouth Gym. For some of my clients, their poor pronunciation of English has caused problems communicating with employers, clients, colleagues and friends. For others, it has created significant problems with their studies or employment prospects.

The results of the training have been a reduction in accent, significantly improved communication, listening and comprehension skills. The Mouth Gym provides, in written, spoken and visual modes, the foundation phonics – the basic speech sounds so that my clients are equipped with the knowledge and skills to say and hear the 'building blocks of English speech' the foundation phonics in written, spoken and visual modes.

Jianan, a Lecturer at a Melbourne University stated, *"with the video in the software, the instructor rectifies candidates' position of tongue and shape of mouth in order to illustrate the correct method to pronounce each letter. I believe this is one of the best features of the software."*

The Mouth Gym Software allowed my clients to control the development of their speaking and listening skills, either in a school or workplace setting, or in the privacy of their own home. It has been a significant advantage to provide the software to overseas students before they begin their English language-based secondary or tertiary studies. There are also Internet links within the software that access further resources to enrich listening skills, vocabulary and grammar, encouraging students to widen their language skills.

I conducted an eight week intensive English Pronunciation Course at Deakin University over the Summer School period for Masters and Honours Degree students from the School of Accounting, Economics and Finance. They were required to interact throughout each session and practice daily using their Mouth Gym.

The Mouth Gym enabled the focus throughout the course to be on students' autonomous learning and the development of confidence to speak English to prospective employers and members of their local communities.

I have been advised by the School, each of these students increased their academic grades following completion of the course.

Some testimonies from students were:

"This course will definitely help me to make certain achievements in my career, because it will help me to eliminate the communication barrier."

"It's helped me to increase my listening skills. Before the course, I couldn't figure out what others were saying." Tingting, Masters Degree Student, Deakin University

"I found that there are many problems in my pronunciation which I did not realise before. I do believe that if I continue to practice it in the right way which is taught from this software, others will understand more easily." Jiaguang, Masters Degree Student, Deakin University

"This course has totally changed my world" Zahida, Masters Degree Student, Monash University

As these testimonies suggest:

- oral communication is critical to students' achievement of their goals in employment, education and other areas of life.
- even after several years of English Language classes, students new to Australia are often far less proficient in the spoken language than in grammar and vocabulary.
- speakers of English as a second language often do not realise that poor pronunciation can completely disguise excellent vocabulary and grammar.

Congratulations on developing the Mouth Gym English Pronunciation Training Software.

I hope that others will be encouraged to use the Mouth Gym to support their teaching or learning of clear and effective English Pronunciation.

Kind Regards



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