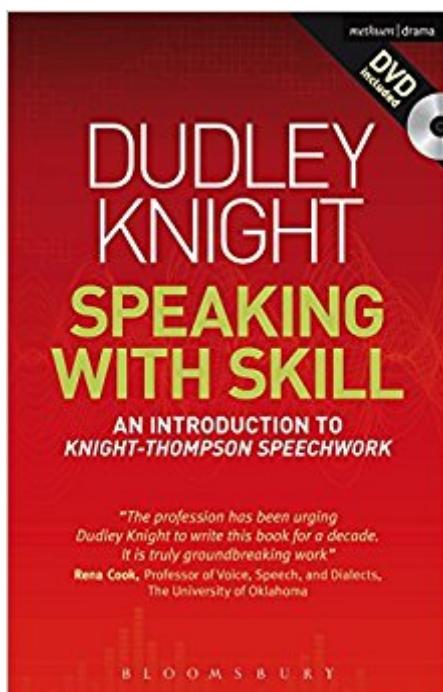


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# Speaking With Skill: A Skills Based Approach To Speech Training (Performance Books)



## **Synopsis**

Dudley Knight is one of the most respected voice and speech teachers in North America and highly regarded internationally. Janet Madelle Feindel - Associate Professor of Voice and Alexander, Carnegie Mellon University. Speaking with Skill marks a fundamental change in the pedagogy of speech training for actors and speakers. It presents a skills-based approach to speech training and offers a wider range of techniques and a more integrated approach to speech actions and phonetic transcription than are found in other speech texts for theatre. Speaking with Skill reintegrates speech training with the allied fields of linguistics and voice science and represents the first serious reexamination of the archaic standards and pedagogy that have dominated speech training for actors and other professional speakers in America. The method employed in this book is already and increasingly being used by instructors on major actor training programs in the United States, Canada, Australia, Ireland and the UK.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Dudley Knight is one of the most respected voice and speech teachers in North America and highly regarded internationally. -- Janet Madelle Feindel, Professor of Voice and Alexander, Carnegie Mellon University, and author of *The Thought Propels the Sound*

Dudley Knight is Professor Emeritus of Drama at the University of California, Irvine. He has had an

extensive stage career that includes major roles in regional theatres along with hundreds of roles in film, television, radio, and voice-over. He is certified as master teacher of Fitzmaurice Voicework and has enjoyed a 40 year career as voice, speech, text, and dialect teacher and voice/text director for professional theatre. He conducts workshops and lectures on voice and speech for actors and voice teachers nationwide and is Currently Editor-in-Chief of Voice and Speech Review.

This is a great book for those who want to develop kinesthesia/proprioception of various articulators (tongue, jaw, lips, buccinator, etc). There are detailed exercises to isolate every muscle involved in speech production. For instance, a typical phonetics talks about vowels in terms of tongue height and front/backness; but the question is how to feel where your tongue's position is? Here, Dudley is of great help: the book has exercises on isolating muscles like styloglossus, hyoglossus, transverse, verticalis, superior/inferior longitudinal muscles. Once you are aware of how each muscle acts, you are almost there to feel where your tongue arches/bunches/cups, etc. Besides these exercises, Dudley talks about "oral posture" , which is similar to Edinburgh's Vocal profile analysis scheme (VPAS), developed by John Laver and continued by John Esling, et al. Oral posture is another way of capturing any accent, since IPA narrow transcriptions do not tell the whole story about accents. Over all, a great book for aspiring actors, future dialect coaches, students of phonetics.

Such a great resource, and a good read to boot! A great marriage of factual information and imaginative presentation. This is the only book I can assign my speech students with no reservations-- I don't have to clarify or provide caveats about the information here. I don't have to worry about any implicit linguistic bias-- the author tackles that can of worms from the very beginning, and sets "intelligibility" as the standard for speech training, not any one accent. It's a window into possibility, not a recipe for "correctness"-- totally freeing for my acting students. Highly recommended.

It's a blend of academic brilliance and practical application. Dudley's sense of humor jumps off the page and catches you by surprise. I highly recommend it for actors and teachers.

A must have for actors or anyone interested in speech. The in depth approach that this book takes is work, but it will leave you with an awareness you didn't think possible.

Arrived on time and has great information.

Excellent

Dudley Knight's love of his subject, dry humor, and clear, precise descriptions make Speaking with Skill hands-down the best, most user-friendly book on phonetics - less intimidatingly re-framed here as "speech skills" - for learners and teachers alike. If you've ever wondered what a uvular sound is and why you should care; if your eyes glaze over when looking at International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) symbols; if you think there's a magic, uniform thing out there called "good speech" that you should aspire to without reference to context, Speaking with Skill will open your eyes, your mind, and your mouth. With this approach, anyone can enjoy exploring and expanding their innate ability (no matter how latent) to speak effectively in as many roles and situations as they want or need to do. Highly recommended!

Dudley Knight's book not only opened a world of possibilities to me, but it also gave me the confidence to work on my speech and my voice. After years of frustrating speech training in different acting conservatories, I came across Knight-Thompson's methodology, and I found the perfect match for me. This is not only an incredible book, it is also an inclusive guide that offers essential tools to anyone interested in speech work. No matter who you are or how you learn, this book offers resources for both the "intellectual" and the "instinctive" to get fast and precise results in a positive and constructive way. Don't waste your money in old traditionally inefficient, elitist and synthetic approaches to speech training.

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