Nearly Natural Speech

While *Extra Intonation* combines your fluency skills in a free-flowing manner, it still involves using a speech pattern that sounds pretty strange. This is because of the way you exaggerate your intonation and prolong the length of particular sounds and words.

Nearly Natural Speech brings you one step closer to speaking in a natural sounding way. It involves using all your fluency-enhancing strategies with more sophistication. ***It almost sounds natural.***

You increase your speed, use more normal intonation, and shorten the length of certain longer stretches. Nevertheless, you still stretch many sounds, and you still maintain a physical awareness of your speech.

Nearly Natural is especially important for two reasons.

One: You'll use it to begin the process of transferring your new fluency skills into your everyday life, and

Two: After you move to *Natural Speech*, you'll likely encounter situations where you have some difficulty. During these times, you can downshift into *Nearly Natural Speech* in order to "regain your ground."

NOTES:

Using Nearly Natural Speech:

1. Practice a few of the *Smooth Movement* Sentences using *Extra Intonation*. Notice how this speech pattern is very exaggerated.

2. Listen to the same sentences being produced with *Nearly Natural Speech*. Notice how the over-exaggerated quality of *Extra Intonation* is gone, and the length of the longer stretches is reduced.

3. Try using *Nearly Natural Speech* on the same sentences. Remember to say whatever you're saying ***"like you mean it."***

4. Do additional practice with *Nearly Natural Speech* using all *Smooth Movement, Easy Voice,* and *Light Contact* Sentences and Paragraphs on pages 51–53 and 59–61.

5. As you practice *Nearly Natural Speech* at this level, incorporate the use of *Slides, Easy Stuttering,* and *Cancellation*.

NOTES:

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