Voicing narrations

Go over this checklist before you record a voiceover:

- *Practice reading your copy out loud:* Listen to your words. They should sound comfortable, conversational—even informal.
- *Short sentences work best:* If you find yourself stumbling over certain phrases, rewrite them.
- *Stress important words and phrases:* As you review your copy, underline important words. When you record your voiceover, you'll want to give those words extra emphasis—more volume and punch.
- *Mark the pauses:* Mark logical breaks in narration with short parallel lines.
- *Avoid an overly smooth and constant pace:* A consistent pace is characteristic of a scripted delivery. You don't want to remind viewers that this is TV. It's real life; it's conversational.
- *Punch up your voice:* Don't slip into a dull, monotone voice. Add zest and enthusiasm to your narration.
- *Practice:* Record a couple of narrations and listen to them. Most first-time narrators mumble, swallow words, or talk too fast. Have you made yourself clear?
- *Don't pop your Ps and Ts:* As you say P- and T-words, you project a small blast of wind. Avoid speaking directly into the mic.
- *Wear a headset:* Hearing yourself helps you avoid popping P's or speaking with too much sibilance—an overemphasis on the S sound. And it helps you minimize room noise and other extraneous sounds.

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