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 to 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.

© 2008 Adobe Systems Incorporated