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# American Dialects: A Manual for Actors, Directors, and Writers

*Lewis Herman, Marguerite Shalett Herman*

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## American Dialects

### A Manual for Actors, Directors, and Writers



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**Lewis Herman, Marguerite Shalett Herman : American Dialects: A Manual for Actors, Directors, and Writers**  
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Dialects: A Manual for Actors, Directors, and Writers:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. fascinating!By William J. Pricei was hoping for a huge tome that got down to various parts of a state. it's not nearly that concise, but it's plenty good and quite interesting.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. American Dialects manual not for everybodyBy Ann AschauerI bought this manual to help me when I taught an intensive course for a short term ("J-term" - one week in January) at a secondary school. I used the book when teaching the American Southern dialect, but for most of the kids it was much too detailed and analytical for them. The book contained such a long list of the subtle differences in pronunciation (depending upon region and which consonant precedes or follows the sound) along with all their exceptions, trying to pick out the most important ones to focus on was overwhelming. In retrospect, for this class I could have used fewer, more general guidelines as to the most obvious differences in dialects to focus on. In other words, more drills to practice fewer substitutions. I can see that for a certain type of mind and advanced training for a career in acting, this book would be a good guide, but for my students it was much easier to pick up dialects by listening to them than by memorizing a complex system of substitutions.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. 'American Dialects Manual

Directors Writers'By BWA222It was better than I expected. I lost my southern accent in no time at all and picked up a few I hadn't considered.

This standard text, now in paperback for the first time-- the companion volume to Foreign Dialects-- American Dialects offers representative dialects of every major section of the United States. In each case, a general description and history of the dialect is given, followed by an analysis of vowel and consonant peculiarities, of its individual lilt and rhythm, and of its grammar variations. There are also lists of the idioms and idiomatic expressions that distinguish each dialect and exercises using them. American Dialects also includes musical inflection charts and diagrams showing the placement of lips, tongue, and breath.

About the AuthorLewis Herman and Marguerite Shalett Herman compiled this material during more than 25 years of acting, writing, teaching, and studying, in Europe, Hollywood, Chicago, and New York. They also acted and directed for stage, television, radio, and motion pictures.