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## THE ROLE OF A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST (SLP) IN VOCAL HEALTH CARE



### TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!

In your opinion, a speech-language pathologist/speech therapist is qualified to...

- Increase awareness of vocal care
  - Assess, diagnose, and treat injuries on the vocal folds
  - Work toward reducing tension in a person's neck (laryngeal area)
  - Facilitate raising or lowering the pitch of a person's speaking voice
  - Teach facilitating approaches to treat a variety of voice disorders
- (Zeine & Waltar, 2002)

If you **answered YES** to all of the above, you are correct!

### WHAT IS A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST?

A speech-language pathologist, or SLP, holds the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP), which requires a master's, doctoral, or other recognized post baccalaureate degree. These professionals are qualified to serve individuals, families, and groups from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds. SLP's are qualified to evaluate, diagnose and treat individuals who exhibit speech, language, voice, fluency, and swallowing disorders.

### ROLE OF THE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST IN ACTOR'S VOCAL HEALTH

A well-qualified SLP is an invaluable asset in caring for professional voice users. An SLP can provide voice therapy to the actor with the focus directed toward vocal hygiene, relaxation techniques, breath management, and abdominal support. Voice therapy is not just needed when an actor has an obvious problem in the speaking voice; it can be helpful when significant technical problems occur as well. Because actors are often less protective of their speaking voices, an SLP may be helpful in teaching proper support, relaxation, and voice placement in speaking.