



10 Myths About Becoming a Ventriloquist

1. You need to be naturally talented

Misconception: The belief is that some people are born with the ability to perform ventriloquism, and if you don't have it, you can't learn it.

Reality: Ventriloquism is fundamentally a set of learned skills involving voice control, diction, and the ability to entertain. Like learning a musical instrument or a new language, it involves learning techniques and practicing. Many professional ventriloquists started as complete novices and developed their skills over time through dedication and the desire to learn this amazing art form.

2. You must be a good singer

Misconception: This stems from the idea that ventriloquism involves voice modulation similar to singing, thus requiring a good voice.

Reality: While singing and ventriloquism share some elements like breath control and pitch variation, being a good singer isn't necessary. What's crucial is the ability to create distinct character voices and maintain vocal consistency for those characters. Even if you don't have musical prowess, with practice, you can develop the vocal flexibility needed for ventriloquism. It's actually very easy to sing using ventriloquism once you learn how it works.

3. It takes years to learn

Misconception: The thought is that like becoming a master musician or artist, ventriloquism requires many years of study.

Reality: While ultimate mastery can take years, beginners can learn the basics and perform competently in a relatively short time if they practice regularly and methodically. Setting incremental goals and focusing on one aspect of the craft at a time can accelerate the learning process. Many people see significant improvement and, with dedicated practice, be performing their first shows within 30 days!

4. You need expensive puppets and equipment

Misconception: This belief comes from seeing professional ventriloquists with elaborate, custom puppets and equipment.

Reality: Starting out doesn't require a significant investment. Simple, affordable puppets or even DIY options like sock puppets or hand-drawn characters can be just as effective for practice. The primary focus for beginners should be on acquiring the fundamental techniques rather than having professional-grade equipment. Buy a professional puppet later, once you have acquired the skill.

5. Only children can learn it

Misconception: This belief may arise because people often see children trying ventriloquism in talent shows or performances.

Reality: Ventriloquism is a skill that can be learned and enjoyed at **any age**. Adults often have the advantage of better self-discipline and patience, which can actually accelerate learning. Many adult beginners find that ventriloquism provides a fun and creative outlet that adds rich dimensions to their personal and professional lives.

6. It's only for kids' entertainment

Misconception: Often, ventriloquism is associated with children's parties and school shows.

Reality: Ventriloquism is an art form with a broad range of applications. Beyond children's entertainment, it can be used in stand-up comedy, therapeutic settings to help individuals express themselves, and even in business presentations to captivate and engage audiences. Professional ventriloquists often cater to adult audiences with sophisticated humor and compelling storytelling. Birthday parties, church events, banquets, fairs, corporate events, libraries, comedy clubs, conventions, trade shows. The performance opportunities are endless.

7. You need to throw your voice

Misconception: The myth is that ventriloquists literally throw their voice to make it seem like it's coming from somewhere else.

Reality: Ventriloquists do NOT throw their voice. Ever. Ventriloquism works by creating the **illusion of vocal direction** through skillful control of lip and jaw movements combined with effective stage craft. Techniques such as ventriloquial plosives (substitute sounds using minimal lip movement) create the feeling that the puppet is talking, while misdirection and performance skills enhance the illusion.

8. It's too difficult to speak without moving your lips

Misconception: People often think it's virtually impossible to talk without visibly moving their lips.

Reality: This skill, while challenging at first, can be developed through targeted exercises. Techniques such as practicing with a mirror, recording your practices with a video camera, focusing on minimizing lip movement for certain consonants, and gradually increasing complexity can help learners achieve clear diction with minimal lip movement. There are only six letters you can't say without moving your lips. B, F, M, P, V, W and Y. You learn substitute letters and sounds to take their place. With practice, these techniques become second nature.

9. Learning on your own is impossible

Misconception: This belief suggests that without a dedicated teacher, one cannot become an accomplished ventriloquist.

Reality: Many resources are available for self-study, including books, online videos, and instructional courses that provide step-by-step guidance. Communities and forums also offer support and feedback. Self-motivation and practice are key to learning any new skill independently, and ventriloquism is no exception.

10. Only a few people succeed

Misconception: The idea is that only a select few can become proficient ventriloquists.

Reality: Success in ventriloquism is achievable for anyone willing to put in the effort and practice consistently. The visibility of successful ventriloquists may make it seem exclusive, but many people have found success at varying levels, from hobbyists performing for friends to professionals entertaining large audiences. Persistence and passion are crucial elements for success in any field, including ventriloquism.

In summary, ANYONE with a normal speaking voice and a willingness to practice just a few FUN minutes per day (yes, it's fun to learn ventriloquism) can become a ventriloquist!

What's stopping you?

Ready to learn how to finally achieve your dream of becoming a ventriloquist?

Why learn from Lee and The Ventriloquist Academy? Great question. Lee is an award winning ventriloquist who has been performing for nearly 60 years. He has been teaching ventriloquism since 1997, had one of the first ever educational videos on the internet, has helped thousands of students and has only had two people take advantage of his two month 100% "Still Lips" guarantee over all of the years.

Lee is ready to help you however he can (and as quickly as possible) to becoming a "vent."

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