

Top Rated Listening Sites

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Site Name & URL	High Points	Low Points	Practical Use
<p>bbc Learning English http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/</p>	<p>1-5 6, 7, 10-12, 13-15, 17, 18, 21* great supporting info * See numbering system at bottom.</p>		<p>bbc English has audio, video + transcripts for intermed.-adv. Levels available, live radio</p>
<p>CBS News http://www.cbsnews.com/video/?tag=bc</p>	<p>1,2,3,6,13; articles accompanying some audios and videos; timely topics. fun, short, min. prep</p>	<p>some ads</p>	<p>high level listening authentic could be used for elision work (small chunks)</p>
<p>English Meeting-Dave's Links http://www.englishmeeting.com/esl_video_pronunciation_th.htm Also: http://www.englishmeeting.com</p>	<p>Pronunciation Exercises with humor 1,2,4,8,9,10,11,12,14,16 pronunciation: 1,3-4, 16 meeting: 1, 3-4, 6-7, 16 excellent pronunciation modeling for dif. levels</p>	<p>limited pronunciation offerings</p>	<p>quick, relaxing practice sessions beg & mod levels</p>
<p>Internet TESL Journal's TESL/TEFL/ TESOL/ESL/ EFL/ESOL Links http://iteslj.org/links/ESL/Listening/Downloadable_MP3_Files/</p>	<p>VOA Special English 1,3,4,6, 7, 10, 11, 13, 14 VOA Business Talk-Computer America-Craig Crossman many links for ESL/EFL students & teachers; transcripts in both Japanese & English on one podcast I viewed; captioned videos; great variety of subjects</p>	<p>VOA Special English Sometimes boring, with inadequate definitions. News - very slow. Some transcripts not exactly like audio. Some items have © issues outside USA. VOA News Special Features is complicated to navigate & does not say how long the clips are. VOA Special English Features does indicate the length of some clips but not in proximity to the actual clip. No pre-, during & post-listening activities. No opportunity to practice listening skills, sub-skills or strategies.</p>	<p>Variety of options for levels & interests. News reports appropriate for mid intermediate levels & above. Computer Am— for sci-tech students authentic segments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • choose topics that are of broad interest or business theme • only use items that are < 4 minutes • create pre-listening activities such as checking current knowledge and vocabulary matching

<p>National Public Radio http://www.npr.org</p>	<p>1-5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18 Transcripts now provided with listening-most shows</p> <p>Change of voices and speaking rates in "All Things Considered" adds novelty.</p> <p>Clear, timely, script provided. Always powerful!</p>	<p>high level, more prep, more than 4 min.</p> <p>1-3 min. segments of longer reports useful for lower levels</p> <p>Advanced vocabulary & quick paced speech. No activities</p>	<p>Like 'mix own podcasts' section, speech not as fast as bbc. Has listening + transcripts & articles. Allows for teacher-prepared pre/post cloze Qs. 1-3 min. segments of longer reports useful for lower levels</p> <p>Hourly news podcasts Listening comprehension, note-taking exercises</p>
<p>PBS Frontline http://www.pbs.org/frontline_world</p>	<p>Quality videos, transcripts 1-5,6,10,11,13,14,15,18,20, 21</p> <p>Learning HOW to listen Love the accompanying transcript for scaffolding; pace great for complicated lang</p>		<p>For discussion and writing, varied topics over several lessons</p> <p>Rich for cultural lessons, history, etc.</p>
<p>Randall's ESL Cyber Listening Lab http://www.esl-lab.com/</p>	<p>Learning HOW to listen 1 - 21 Transcripts the same at spoken words, eliminating confusion. Site focuses on ESL online listening tasks. Good audio quality. Clips are embedded in the webpages which are on host's own server. Wide range of content: daily situations – practical & functional. Short, focused clips, variety of exercises. Teaching tips & resources. Listening activities are streamed & organized by level. Train your accent page w/ transcript, audio, 2 activities, and color-coded speech reduction transcript. 16 lessons. Self-scoring listening tasks. Option to listen again w/ transcript. Several post-listening tasks.</p>	<p>Perhaps more pre-listening activities could be offered as a means of a warm-up for students. This would also enhance a sense of purpose and context in the activities as a whole. A wider range of integrative activities could also be offered.</p> <p>Google ads may confuse users & make nav a little difficult</p> <p>Speakers in an "easy" task spoke very quickly. Comp Qs also high level.</p>	<p>quick gen listen/pron practice all levels</p> <p>Suggestions for ESL-EFL Students:</p> <p>With intermediate and above learners</p>

<p>English Language Learning Lab Online www.ello.org</p>	<p>Variety of topics. Variety of Englishes. Easily accessible site that has fast audio streams embedded in the host's server page. Transcripts are available below the audio boxes. Contains varied content with interesting themes. Houses an extensive listening file. Ello blog called Elllogy, quiz at side of listening activity, scripts below image. Good clear and steady speech. Google & other Ads at bottom of page :-)</p>	<p>As with many of the other sites, there are no pre-listening tasks or warm-up material for students.</p>	
<p>YouTube http://www.youtube.com/</p>	<p>You can find something on any topic. Closed captioning on some. Able to embed video into your personal learning environment (PLE)</p>	<p>Need to create lessons & preview prior to using in class.</p>	
<p>Voice Thread http://voicethread.com/#home</p>	<p>Students can record oral presentations & comment: type, record & upload audio, video, written comments. Listen to other's recordings & comment. Quite easy to use. Suggestions for ESL-EFL Students: Nice to develop fluency in upper intermediate and above levels.</p>	<p>No guide or pre-listening activities. Mostly a place to store conversations but no guided activities. Teachers can monitor students' work after the oral recording is produced.</p>	

Listening Priorities

Logistics

1. Easily accessible with transparent procedures
2. User-friendly format supported by most operating systems
3. Few steps to get to the clip, with a direct link whenever possible
4. Excellent quality audio without distortion, static, or other problems
5. Provides a written transcript to provide at the end for a final listening

Content

6. Interesting content to motivate participants to learn more and adapted to students' immediate needs
7. A wealth of user-friendly supplementary materials & good supporting activities
8. Makes use of the language & vocabulary that is part of instructor's theme-based unit
9. Uses the grammar and vocabulary students currently need: videos
10. Has a cultural component to add to students' cultural knowledge base
11. Level of material allows improvement of listening skills, not discouragement
12. Short length, below 4 minutes

Listening Skills

13. Attention to triggering ideas for discussion and writing
14. Attention to listening comprehension
15. Attention to developing critical listening skills
16. Attention to practicing pronunciation
17. Incorporates listening strategies and teaching of listening sub-skills
18. Promotes higher order thinking skills
19. Provides authentic online tasks
20. Engages several senses: visual, mental, and the sense of need specific to the course content and learner expectations
21. Includes pre, during and post listening exercises for reinforcement