

Listening

Name: Teacher-created listening

Aim: to provide tailored listening material for your students

Contexts: all

Level: A1 – C2

Type of tool: computer / phone or tablet / digital recorder / audio editing software (optional)

Type of materials: OWN/PUB/AUTH

Planning: medium-long

Preparation:

There are two approaches to creating listening materials tailored to the needs of your students. One is to write your own from scratch. The other is to adapt published materials or authentic materials such as newspaper articles or excerpts from books.

Whatever the source, there are a number of factors to take into consideration as you write and then record. See Tools – Audio for advice on writing, recording, editing and distributing audio materials.

Make two or three recordings and choose the best one. If you are able to use audio editing software, edit together the best parts from each recording.

Save the recording as an mp3 file.

Create any supporting materials such as a transcript, questions for detailed or gist listening, and discussion questions.

Procedure:

1. In the classroom:

Set up the activity like any other homework listening task. Use a warmer question to introduce the topic; introduce the aim of the activity (detail or gist); distribute the question worksheets and or the transcript, outline a suggested procedure (e.g. listen once without pausing, listen again while pausing to answer the questions, listen a third time to check answers or collect more information, finally listen and follow the transcript).

Direct the students to the location of the mp3 file if you have uploaded it to an LMS, or distribute the mp3 file using email (if it's small enough) or by a file-sharing service.

2. Outside the classroom:

Students do the listening task for homework.

3. In the classroom:

Follow up by dealing with any questions, practising the language modelled in the recording, or discussing the content.

Variations:

If you have the equipment, time and skills, you can also create videos for listening practice.

Notes:

If your recording is based on adapted material, it is important to be aware of the copyright implications.

Creating well-scripted and recorded materials takes time. It is worth learning to use one of the freeware audio editing programs. This takes the pressure off to produce good quality recordings in a single take and opens up the potential for editing together voices recorded at different times and adding sound effects.