

## Listening Site Survey Results

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Our group surveyed listening websites, which could be used in an ESL classroom or online course. Each website was evaluated using a scale of 0-5. During an online text, the group identified high points and low points for each website and developed suggestions on how the site's audio and/or video clips and activities can be used in a classroom or online course. Following this discussion, a composite score was assigned. The table below summarizes our findings.

Rank	Name of website	URL	Target student	High points	Low points	Suggested Use
4.6	English Listening	<a href="https://www.englishlistening.com/">https://www.englishlistening.com/</a>	Adult Advanced intermediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Great variety of speakers and interesting topics.</li> <li>-Natural speech, not a prewritten script</li> <li>-very well organized</li> <li>-can sort based on level, purpose, topic, and accent</li> <li>-can see the degree of difficulty, rate of speech, accent of speaker before listening</li> <li>-easy to navigate</li> <li>-script is not visible unless you want it</li> <li>-really nice audio controls. Besides pausing, you can slide to any point in the clip you want to hear.</li> <li>-pieces of varying length</li> <li>-very clear instructions</li> <li>-excellent sound quality</li> <li>-some listening material, with</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Some of the passages require a monthly fee to access</li> <li>-The rotating pictures on the screen can be a bit distracting</li> <li>-All of the passages are monologues, so there is no variety of passage types</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Students or teacher can choose topics for group or individual work</li> <li>-Have students listen to audio clip without the transcript, then with the transcript to scaffold difficulty.</li> <li>- can be used as individual work, pair work, or group work.</li> <li>-following listening to topic, lead discussion in class or on discussion board</li> <li>- students can listen to assigned audio clip and complete test prior to class, then class time is used in</li> </ul>

				all exercises and features free; much more for a nominal fee.		discussion and additional activities developed by the teacher to reinforce vocabulary etc. -develop word set on Quizlet for additional practice
4.3	Randall's ESL Cyberlistening Lab	<a href="http://www.esl-lab.com/index.htm/">http://www.esl-lab.com/index.htm/</a>	Adult/teen Beginner Intermediate advanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-good variety of topics</li> <li>-realistic though not totally natural speech</li> <li>-well organized; main part of site organized into Easy, Medium, and Difficult</li> <li>-students can easily select their choice of listening pieces</li> <li>-easy to navigate; Home button on every page to return to main list</li> <li>-self-scoring multiple-choice comprehension check</li> <li>-many humorous pieces</li> <li>-pre-and post-listening activities plus full script available</li> <li>-most pieces short, less than 2 min.</li> <li>-some video clips</li> <li>-completely free</li> </ul>	-Contains numerous advertisements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Participate in discussion board before listening.</li> <li>-Choose a unit topic and allow students to choose audio related to the unit topic, then share what they learned and lead class discussion.</li> <li>-Use as pair work while teacher is working with larger group.</li> <li>-Assign as online task and then participate in discussion board afterwards</li> <li>-Use as independent work with students keeping a log of clips they listened to.</li> <li>-develop word set on quizlet for additional practice</li> </ul>

4	ELLLO	<a href="http://www.ello.org">http://www.ello.org</a>	Adult/teen Beginner intermediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-large selection of Beginner material</li> <li>-excellent variety of topics</li> <li>-dialogues/interviews with natural language</li> <li>-a nice image plus photos of the speakers appears for each piece</li> <li>-script can be hidden or revealed</li> <li>-excellent sound quality</li> <li>-vocabulary notes explain key phrases from audio</li> <li>-each piece has a self-checking vocabulary quiz and a comprehension quiz</li> <li>-audio is downloadable as MP3</li> <li>-search for pieces by level, topic, country, or media (audio, video+)</li> <li>-site has page titled Teacher's Guide for Use</li> <li>-Good audio and video controls</li> <li>-free</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-This site requires the teacher to give clear instructions to students on how to use it unless the students have strong reading skills. This is due to the fact that there is no table of contents.</li> <li>-It could be difficult for students to find an assigned passage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<b>Pre-listening instructions:</b> Read the question prompt for the audio/video piece, clarify for understanding, play the video with captions off, then play again with captions if students need it.</li> <li>-Pre-teach vocabulary</li> <li>- assign quizzes for homework</li> <li>-have students download audio clips to MP3 or cell phones for repeated listening while on the go outside the classroom.</li> <li>-<b>Views:</b> Students listen to audio clip, then interview each other simulating content on audio clip. IE Love at first sight.</li> <li>-<b>Mixer</b> audio clips: Divide class into groups who listen to separate responses to a question. Then, they individually answer the question based on their</li> </ul>
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						<p>opinion.</p> <p><b>-Video:</b> Students watch video clip and then respond to the question in the clip. IE Would you like to be a nomad.</p> <p><b>-Games (SixPix):</b> good for beginners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have students listen to dialog and then in pairs, read the dialog</li> <li>- Teacher's Guide on website has good suggestions on use in class, offline use, computer lab, homework, and self-study/self access for remedial.</li> <li>-develop word set on quizlet for additional practice</li> </ul>
3.6	5-minute English	<a href="http://www.5minuteenglish.com/listening.htm/">http://www.5minuteenglish.com/listening.htm/</a>	Adult Beginner intermediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-nice selection of practical topics for conversation</li> <li>-good resource if looking for easy dialogue</li> <li>-much low level material</li> <li>-good for vocabulary building</li> <li>-good audio quality</li> <li>-simple navigation; choose from a list of topics</li> <li>-vocabulary and idioms explained</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-This site has unnatural speech and pronunciation</li> <li>-Passages are obviously read and therefore have unauthentic English</li> <li>-Some passages have text only with no audio</li> <li>-Images don't appear when using Firefox or Chrome internet browsers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- play audio clip without transcript for whole class, then let them see the transcript.</li> <li>- after listening, have students do pair work reading the script</li> <li>-role play via discussion board</li> <li>-develop word set on</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-easy audio controls</li> <li>-script provided</li> <li>-self-checking true/false comprehension quizzes + some cloze</li> <li>-free</li> </ul>		Quizlet for additional practice
3.6	CNN Videos	<a href="http://www.cnn.com/video/">http://www.cnn.com/video/</a>	Adult Advanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-current events</li> <li>-natural speech</li> <li>-Native English speakers</li> <li>-great variety of topics</li> <li>-real news stories, reported by professional reporters</li> <li>quality of writing and piece production is excellent</li> <li>-some less than 2 min.</li> <li>-tabs and links to other parts of website</li> <li>-free</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-There are no pre- or post-activities that accompany the passages</li> <li>-There are no scripts on this site</li> <li>-Because these are real news passages, it is geared for higher level English students only</li> <li>-There are advertisements before each audio passage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-use as part of daily class for current events</li> <li>-students can select on audio/video clips and then give an oral or written summary</li> <li>-listen/watch as a class then discuss in class or on discussion board</li> <li>-teacher pre-teach vocabulary</li> <li>-teacher develop activities to reinforce comprehension</li> <li>- use as homework with students keeping a listening log</li> <li>-students listen to audio/video prior to class. Class time spent on activities to learn vocabulary, reinforce listening comprehension, and discussion</li> </ul>

3.5	VOA Special English	<a href="http://www.voanews.com/learning/english/home/">http://www.voanews.com/learning/english/home/</a>	Adult Intermediate advanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-topics classified by level</li> <li>-no ads</li> <li>-for lower levels</li> <li>-podcasts available</li> <li>-scripts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-This site contains passages with unnaturally slow speech</li> <li>-There are no pre-or post-activities that accompany the passages</li> </ul>	Same as CNN
3.3	British Council Learn English	<a href="http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/">http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/</a>	Adult/teen Intermediate advanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-wide variety of topics</li> <li>-audio and video material</li> <li>-fairly easy navigation</li> <li>-much easy material</li> <li>-many short pieces</li> <li>-useful section titled “How to say the right thing in different situations”</li> <li>-pre-viewing exercises</li> <li>-comprehension and put-in-order post-viewing exercises</li> <li>-natural-like speech, spoken by professional-sounding actors</li> <li>-elementary podcasts can be accessed on smart phones</li> <li>-variety of length of audio and video material</li> <li>-free</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Many topics are oriented towards British culture and may not be relevant for students studying English in the USA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- have students download podcasts to smart phone for repetitive listening</li> <li>-<b>How To</b>; students listen and then practice “how to”.</li> <li>- Students video their own “how to” using smart phones</li> <li>- listen to topics as class, groups, or pairs then follow with class discussion or discussion on discussion board</li> <li>-teacher pre-teach vocabulary</li> <li>-teacher develop activities to reinforce comprehension and vocabulary</li> <li>- before listening, complete vocabulary activity, then listen to the episode and do tasks for understanding.</li> </ul>

						Complete additional tasks to reinforce learning, - have students listen to podcasts, then discuss in pairs, small groups, whole class, or on discussion board
3	NPR	<a href="http://www.npr.org/">http://www.npr.org/</a>	Adult Advanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-app for Android and iOS</li> <li>-5 min news summary, updated hourly, 24/7 is great!</li> <li>-can select programs and clips on individual stories or segments within a program</li> <li>-can access StoryCorps</li> <li>-scripts available</li> <li>-podcasts available</li> <li>-can find local stations or any in the USA</li> <li>-can hear live broadcasts and get local news or favorite programs from a particular location/station</li> <li>-real news stories as well as a wide variety of human interest topics reported by professional journalists</li> <li>-free</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-There are no pre-or post-activities that accompany the passages</li> <li>-Because these are real news passages, it is geared for higher level English students only</li> <li>-Since the passages are news items, it may be difficult to use a given passage again in the future. This is a low pint for a teacher who spends time creating an activity to accompany a passage, and then can never use it again.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- use 5 min. news as part of each class to review current events.</li> <li>- select programs and clips on individual segments within a program</li> <li>- pick a program ie: Prairie H0me Companion, and have students follow it each week. Use as prompt for discussion</li> <li>-see ideas under CNN and VOA</li> <li>- listen to stories without transcript, and then with transcript.</li> <li>- audio can be downloaded for repeated use</li> </ul>
2.6	Real English	<a href="http://www.real-english.com/">http://www.real-english.com/</a>	Adult/teen Beginner intermediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-natural speech</li> <li>-some interesting topics</li> <li>-live person-on-the-street interviews</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-This site is poorly organized which makes it difficult to find a passage or topic that you're looking for.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- listen with and without subtitles</li> <li>- use live person on the street interviews</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-video material</li> <li>-much low level material</li> <li>-mobile app</li> <li>-pre-viewing exercise with script of dialogues</li> <li>-with and without subtitles</li> <li>versions of videos</li> <li>-free</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-It contains some activities with the passages, but they aren't very thought provoking.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>as model, then students interview each other on topic.</li> <li>- choose engaging topic, listen, then discuss</li> <li>- teacher develop better activities to reinforce vocabulary and comprehension</li> </ul>
2	iPlayer	<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio/">www.bbc.co.uk/radio/</a>	Adult advanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-good selection of topics of interest to adults</li> <li>-for advanced students</li> <li>-podcasts</li> <li>-British news</li> <li>-free</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-This site does not contain scripts</li> <li>-There are no pre-or post-activities that accompany the passages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- listen to topic and then discuss In class or on discussion board</li> <li>- listen to topic, then have students add own perspective</li> <li>- use podcasts for group or individual learning</li> <li>-teacher develop activities for learning vocabulary and reinforce learning comprehension</li> </ul>