

I'm not a robot



Consistency is key. Make listening practice a part of your daily routine. Whether it's listening to podcasts, watching videos, or using our listening exercises, regular exposure to English will significantly improve your comprehension over time. Consistency is key. Make listening practice a part of your daily routine. Whether it's listening to podcasts, watching videos, or using our listening exercises, regular exposure to English will significantly improve your comprehension over time. Here, you will find listening comprehension exercises divided into the following six levels of difficulty: Information All audio files are found in mp3 format. You can use the following media players to play mp3 files on your computer: VLC Windows Media Player Audacity A transcript of each recording can also be found which will allow you to listen to the recording again if you want to check your answers, and to follow what is said by reading the transcript. Do you struggle with finding interesting ways to teach ESL listening skills? Maybe you have an activity or two already but you want to be able to mix it up and keep things interesting. By the end of this article, you will have 12 interesting English listening activities that you can use with ESL students of various ages and skill levels. We even selected some great resources for your next listening lesson! Listening makes up one of the four core areas of language: reading, writing, speaking and listening. If our students' listening isn't good enough then they are missing out on a quarter of their language ability! Listening is needed in order to do things such as watching movies, listening to music and having conversations. The problem is that this skill can easily become underdeveloped. Visual tasks such as reading and writing may seem more comfortable and so students may prefer to give these more time. While this may be easier in the short run it means that those skills become a lot stronger but their listening gets left in the dirt. We need to make a conscious effort to give listening skills the attention they deserve! This article has a list of plenty of listening exercises that you can begin using today and let your student's listening skills play catch up! Browse our full archive of ESL teacher resources and worksheets. Here is the list of activities, exercises, and games that you can start using with your students to improve their listening skills. Everything has been arranged into different groups to make finding the right activity for the right student even easier. Let's begin! Start by writing out a sentence but omit some of the words. Each student needs a copy of this sentence. Next, you simply read the sentence (including the missing word) and the students fill in the missing word. Difficulty can be increased by omitting more words, speaking quicker or changing which words you leave out. For example, if you have a sentence such as "I like to ... cake" it is fairly easy to guess a word like "eat", there are only so many words that would make sense here. However, if we instead have a sentence like "I like to eat ..." then all of a sudden there are so many more words that could fit there which makes it harder. Always review the students' results and use them as feedback for creating the next set of exercises. Resource tip: Here is a selection of sample gap-fill texts. With this activity, you need to first take a piece of a chosen text. You then need to create another version of this text for the students and in this version, you will need to change some of the words. You then read out loud the text from your copy and the students have to circle which words are different. This is a great activity as it trains the students to really focus on the sounds and how they match the words. You can increase the difficulty by either using more difficult text, using a longer piece of text or by increasing the number of incorrect words. Bonus points if the students can tell you what the correct word should be that you said! Resource tip: Here you can find some easy stories to use for this exercise. This activity is great for building listening skills with simple vocabulary. It's very easy to set up too! You first need a selection of pictures, one for each piece of target vocabulary. Each picture needs a corresponding letter. For example, if we have 26 pictures then we can use 'A' for the first picture and 'B' for the next picture etc. If this is done with more than one student then put all of these pictures on one or two sheets of paper and make copies for everyone. You then simply need to say one of the words from your selection and your students need to write the letter for that picture down. For complete beginners, it's better to say the target words in isolation but you can increase the difficulty by giving them phrases or sentences with the target word "hidden in them". After a while, you could even include more than one target word to really ramp up the challenge. Download vocabulary flashcards on classroom objects, body parts and shape names here. For this exercise, you will first need to have a piece of text with plenty of information. News articles are great for this. You then either need a recording of the text being spoken or a script so that you can read it yourself. Students will have to listen to what is being said, understand it and then write down a summary of the most important parts. This can be quite a difficult task as there are a number of different skills students need to employ but it is extremely useful for comprehension. In fact, this activity makes up part of the PTE exam so is especially great if you prepare any students for that. Resource tip: My favourite site for news stories is BBC news. First, you will need a movie clip with just two characters speaking (around 1-2 minutes). Next pair two of your students and assign one of the characters to each student. Your students will get a chance to watch the clip now and they will have to make notes on the dialogue. Once they have made their notes they will then have to perform the scene themselves. Now obviously it is unlikely they are going to get it word for word. Instead, you need to focus on them conveying the important parts of the scene. Make sure to tell them this in advance so that they don't feel too stressed about trying to memorise every single word. If you want to increase the difficulty then try this without any visual, just allow the students to listen to the scene. This makes it much harder as there is no visual context for what's happening. Also, you can choose a film that is less likely to be known by the students to make things even trickier. Resource tip: You can either curate your movie collection to find some good scenes or even easier just search for them on youtube! This is an activity which is extremely practical as it's something that will need to be done in a workplace for example. Your student will play the part of a secretary. The boss isn't in right now and so they will need to take a message for later. For the telephone message, you can ring the student from another room. If this isn't possible then ring from at least the other side of the room and facing away from each other so that they don't get any visual clues. This is similar to the "Summarise" activity but this time the quality of the call will be degraded as it's coming from a telephone. This is also a conversation so the student will also have a chance to ask you to repeat details or confirm certain things. This activity is a great chance to teach your students some stock phrases such as "I'm sorry, could you repeat that?" as well as teaching them how to spell things using the NATO phonetic alphabet (alfa, bravo, charlie). Start by printing out some short pieces of text. You need to stick these around the classroom. Next, split your students into pairs. Student A is the "fetcher" and student B is the "writer". Student B has to stay at their desk with their pen and paper. They are in charge of writing down the information they hear from student A. Student A has to walk (or run if it's safe!) to where the paper is. They then have to read and remember as much of it as possible before telling student B the information to write down. They will need repeated trips to get it all, so it is motivating for them to remember as much as possible. The first team to get their paper written down (with relatively few mistakes) is the winner! This game is great for waking your students up and getting them moving about. Remember to switch over so that everyone gets a turn. Resource tip: Try using some short stories for this exercise. Here's a more detailed instruction on running dictations. If you haven't played Simon says before then let me break down the rules to this classic children's game. First, the teacher will say "Simon says" followed by a verb phrase, e.g. "Simon says jump". The students then have to do the actions. You can make this competitive by having a student lose a point if they do it wrong, or if they're the last. However, if you'd prefer to keep a more relaxed environment (possibly better with younger students) then even just having them copy you will be fun enough as it gets them moving around. Resource tip: The wikipedia page has a list of the names of this game in other languages so that your students can recognize it immediately! Another active game to wake up your younger students. The idea for this game is for the teacher to say a word, e.g. "clock", the students then have to get to that item as quickly as possible. In order to make this a little more difficult, you could just say a letter and the students have to run to something that has the same first letter. E.g. if you say "b" then the students could run to the board or to a ball. Resource tip: If there aren't enough things in the classroom then you can print out some vocabulary cards and hide them around the room. This one is good for training listening memory and can be a lot of fun for kids to be loud! Simply take a word or short phrase, say it out loud and get them to shout it back to you as loud as they can! "This is very high energy so is great if you catch them falling asleep. This works even better if you use a song or a chant to bring the energy levels up and make it even more fun! Again, the length of the phrase can influence the difficulty. You could warm up with single words before making longer phrases later on. E.g. "hello" ... "hello" ... "hello" ... "I'm happy" ... "I'm happy" ... "I'm happy to meet you" ... "I'm happy to meet you" ... "I'm happy to meet you" Resource tip: Here's a long list of great call and response ideas. This is based on the classic drinking game where every time someone says a designated word you have to drink. Now we can't exactly do the same here (unless you have a very particular kind of student!) so we will have to replace the drinking alcohol with some other kind of activity. You could take a sip of water or coffee instead or you could act out some kind of activity, e.g. every time somebody says the word "fall" you have to clap your hands. Once you have the rules set out you then need the audio. For this, you can either find your own audio material on youtube etc or you can simply read it yourself. Bear in mind that if you do read it yourself then your attention will be split between reading and focussing on the student's ability. Resource tip: Here is a list of useful podcasts you can use for this exercise. This one is a little less fun but ideal for more serious students. Simply take a piece of text, and read parts at a time with the student writing or typing what you are saying. For this, I start slow by saying one word at a time with a gap in between each. After a while move up to doing two words with a gap in between and keep increasing the number of words. The idea is to eventually get to a point where the student can transcribe entire sentences. Once you have finished with a sentence then go through and mark it. This is a good time to talk about logic in sentences. For example, if they wrote down "Yesterday, I went to the park and had a picnic." then we could talk about why "peck" is not such a good choice here. We are expecting a noun and specifically a place. Once we have gone through the type of word that should go there then they are more likely to end up with the right word "park". Resource tip: The Guardian is constantly updated with relevant news articles. In this exercise, you are roleplaying a meeting. The teacher's role is to speak on a particular topic for 5 minutes or so and the students have to listen and create minutes of the "meeting". The purpose of this exercise is for students to scan for the most important information and make a note of it. The minutes they create can be basic bullet points as long as they have correct and relevant information. You can also give them a few minutes to tidy up their notes at the end. This exercise is great because it is very relevant to utilizing listening skills in a real-world environment so the students will benefit greatly from this. To mix things up you could also get one of the other students to speak in the meeting and have everyone else create minutes from them. Resource tip: This page has plenty of roleplays and activities for meetings. As I've said before, this is an area that can be easily neglected especially if your students aren't doing much in the way of self-study. Make sure to revisit their listening skills often to keep everything even. Find great ESL speaking activities for your students here. Also, it's a good idea to familiarize yourself with as many of these as possible so that you are able to mix things up and keep your classes interesting and fun for your students. Head over to our list of ESL listening worksheets. Page 1 World Of Movies Description: Recorded message giving cinema information. Language: Times of films being shown, plot outlines given using present simple. Dialect: British English | Length: 1m 57s | Listening Number: 1L1 Click for Transcript Listening Quiz 1 - World Of Movies 2 A Musician's Day Description: Rock star describes day's routine. Language: Present simple to talk about daily routine of a famous musician. Dialect: International English | Length: 2m 01s | Listening Number: 1L2 Click for Transcript Listening Quiz 2 - A Musician's Day Listening Quiz 2 - A Musician's Day 2 The New Class Description: A woman tells her male friend about her new Spanish class. Language: Present Simple and present continuous. Description of people and places. Dialect: North American / British English | Length: 2m 55s | Listening Number: 1L3 Click for Transcript Listening Quiz 1 - The New Class Listening Quiz 2 - The New Class 2 Making Apple Pie Description: Two friends discuss what is needed to make an apple pie. Language: Quantifiers - few, many, enough, a lot, etc. Dialect: North American / British English | Length: 1m 59s | Listening Number: 1L4 Click for Transcript Listening Quiz 1 - Making Apple Pie Listening Quiz 2 - Making Apple Pie 2 Bookworms Description: Woman carrying out survey about reading habits and book-buying habits. Male respondent. Language: Present simple questions, some past simple. Dialect: North American / British English | Length: 1m 49s | Listening Number: 1L5 Click for Transcript Listening Quiz 1 - Bookworms Listening Quiz 2 - Bookworms 2 Coming To Town Description: Two friends have a conversation about a family member coming to visit. Language: Expressing the future. Dialect: North American English | Length: 2m 09s | Listening Number: 1L7 Click for Transcript Listening Quiz 1 - Coming To Town Listening Quiz 2 - Coming To Town 2 At The Airport Description: Two friends at the airport discussing their future vacation plans. Language: Present simple, going to future, past simple. Dialect: North American English | Length: 1m 58s | Listening Number: 1L8 Click for Transcript Listening Quiz 1 - At The Airport Listening Quiz 2 - At The Airport 2 High quality PDF lesson plans. Full teacher notes - zero preparation time. mp3 listening materials. Full color flashcards for grammar/vocabulary teaching. Thousands of content members from around the world. Lesson plans in both British and American English. Premium Home Page | Free Samples | Why Join | FAQ | Sign Up! Take The Tour *Special Coupon Discount**\$8 off Lifetime Membership. Enter coupon code 8LIFE at registration. (valid for this month) At The Department Store Description: Male customer assistant helping female customer with information about where to find things in a department store. Language: Present and past simple, first conditional, basic modals. Dialect: North American English | Length: 2m 17s | Listening Number: 1L9 Click for Transcript Listening Quiz 1 - At The Department Store Listening Quiz 2 - At The Department Store 2 Better Learning Description: Four speakers talk about what they do to help themselves learn English better. Language: Adjectives, how to improve your English learning. Dialect: Multiple | Length: 2m 46s | Listening Number: 1L10 Click for Transcript Listening Quiz 1 - Better Learning Listening Quiz 2 - Better Learning 2 Knowing Her Majesty Description: Two friends talk about an assignment one of them has to write about Queen Elizabeth II. Language: Present simple questions. Dialect: Australian English | Length: 2m 41s | Listening Number: 1L11 Click for Transcript Listening Quiz 1 - Knowing Her Majesty Listening Quiz 2 - Knowing Her Majesty 2 Perchance To Dream Description: Survey about sleeping and dreaming. Language: Present simple questions, adverbs of frequency. Dialect: British English | Length: 2m 37s | Listening Number: 1L12 Click for Transcript Listening Quiz 1 - Perchance To Dream Listening Quiz 2 - Perchance To Dream 2 Index of contents Listening exercises 1 Listening exercises 2 Home Content! This is a rapidly growing collection of English language listening/speaking activities. They include PDF worksheets with exercises and scripts. Many are accompanied by videos. After an audio file has been played one time you will see three dots on the right hand side. You can download the audio file with one click. These activities aim to improve students' listening skills by:teaching listening skills within the context of other activities such as speaking and writing/using a variety of materials such as pictures, stories, articles, dialogues, and audio/video recordings,Listening for Story telling exercisesHouses and neighborhoodsSentence starters4 Online Shopping Listening/Speaking and Vocabulary Exercises9 Import/Export, Logistics and Supply Chain vocabulary and listening/speaking exercisesSubscribe to get full access to the latest and best resources from eslflow.com. There are no ads in the newsletter and you will receive entertaining, high quality, and up-to-date teaching resources regularly. Also, if you take out a paid subscription, you can download large collections of PDF audio and video materials in zip files. 16 Elementary Conversation Exercises for Speaking and Listening Classes (including worksheets, gap fills, audio and video)Airport and airline listening/speaking exercisesComparative adjective worksheetsPast (simple) tense listening exercises"used to" and past continuous listening/speaking and video exercises11 role play listening/speaking Activities? essential listening exercises for English as a second language classesListening/speaking exercises for the latest technological advances6 present perfect grammar, speaking and listening ExercisesListening/speaking exercises for conditionalsBody language and gestures vocabulary and listening/speakingUsing transport and getting around town listening/speaking exercisesMoney and finances listening/speaking exercisesListening exercises for imperatives and classroom languageReported speech and indirect questions listening/speaking activitiesTeaching adverbs with listening/speaking activitiesListening practice for using transitions in sentences, paragraphs and essaysTalking about shopping listening/speaking activitiesDescribing graphs and trends listening practiceListening exercises for prepositionsListening exercises for the future tenseFood, cooking and kitchens listening/speaking exercisesDescribing people and appearance listening/vocabulary exercisesAdvertising and branding vocabulary and listening/Debate and discussion listening exercisesReading comprehension listening exercisesListening/speaking exercises for modals5 common socializing and small talk listening/speaking exercisesListening exercises for adjectives incl. describing people and describing cities5 Elementary Conversational Expressions and Listening ExercisesElementary First Day of Class ActivitiesPresent continuous listening exercisesFood and Restaurant Vocabulary, Speaking and Listening Exercises9 Invitations and Requests Dialogues and Listening Exercises for Everyday Scenarios20 Brilliant Business English Speaking and Listening Skills Worksheets10 Essential Business English Vocabulary Exercises and WorksheetsJob interview listening/speaking exercises5 Cerunds and Infinitives Grammar, Speaking and Listening ActivitiesPassive voice listening/speaking ExercisesPersonality listening/speaking activitiesEnvironmental issues listening/speakingHealth vocabulary and speaking listening exercises Page 2 Do It Like This! Description: Ben calls Susan at work to ask her how to do various things. Language: How to fix things: imperative. Dialect: Australian & North American English | Length: 1m 48s | Listening Number: 1L13 Click for Transcript Listening Quiz 1 - Do It Like This! Listening Quiz 2 - Do It Like This! 2 A Grand Vacation Description: Henrietta meets a friend on the train and asks him about his European vacation. Language: Past simple, adjectives. Dialect: North American English | Length: 2m 25s | Listening Number: 1L14 Click for Transcript Listening Quiz 1 - A Grand Vacation Listening Quiz 2 - A Grand Vacation 2 Friend Visits Description: A friend sends a spoken pen-pal letter to a friend who is going to visit her, talking about her hometown and how to find her house. Language: Giving directions, imperative. Dialect: British English | Length: 3m 07s | Listening Number: 1L15 Click for Transcript Listening Quiz 1 - A Friend Visits Listening Quiz 2 - A Friend Visits 2 My Hometown Description: Three people talk about their hometowns. Language: Describing places, giving opinions. Dialect: North American & British English | Length: 2m 35s | Listening Number: 1L16 Click for Transcript Listening Quiz 1 - My Hometown Listening Quiz 2 - My Hometown 2 How to use Off2Class for in-person ESL lessons Welcome to the new Off2Class! Today, we would like to show you how to use... Practicing listening skills is super important for ESL learners. Making these tasks fun is the best way to ensure high levels of engagement from students. Fun games and quick activities are the perfect way to give your students daily practice of this essential skill and ensure they develop their confidence! Here, we have gathered 21 listening games and activities that are super simple to build into your daily classroom and that your students will love! This game is a fun warm-up for your next ESL lesson! The teacher calls out instructions and students must follow the previous instruction, instead of the one that has just been called out. Learn more: YouTube This game comes with a free printable board that you can edit for your class. Read a sentence to your students which includes an item from the top row and side column. They must then check the grid to find where the points meet to give them letters from the password. Learn more: YouTube Students will enjoy this fun game that can be played individually or on the class board. Read out a sentence to your students (e.g. the dog is on a car) and have them draw what it describes! Learn more: YouTube A board race is a super competitive activity that your students will love. Sort your class into teams, each with a marker for the board. The teacher then calls out a category and students must race each other to fill the slots on the board with correctly spelled words that link to the category. Learn more: YouTube This fun activity is a super way to end the day or as a brain break for your students, whilst still working on their English skills. The teacher will say "change seat if..." and then adds a statement at the end. Learn more: ESL Kids Games The telephone game is a circle time classic and is great fun for English learners. Students sit in a circle and the teacher will whisper a phrase to the first student. The students then pass this phrase along the circle and the last student says aloud what they have heard. Learn more: ESL Active Playing 20 questions is a fun way to get your students talking and practicing their English in a no-pressure situation. A "thinker" thinks of a person, place, or thing and the other students must ask twenty or fewer questions to guess what the thing is. Learn more: YouTube Fizz Buzz is a fantastic way to combine math with an English listening exercise. Students count up from the number 1 to 100 but must say "fizz" if their number is a multiple of five or "buzz" if it is a multiple of 7. Learn more: Dr. Mike's Math Games For Kids A fun game of bingo can easily engage your students in a fun revision session! Each student gets a bingo board and can cross off pictures as the teacher calls out specific weather types. Learn more: Gift of Curiosity Homophones are particularly tricky for English learners. For this fun game, students listen to the teacher call out words, then once a homophone is called they must race to be the first to write the different spellings of the words down. Learn more: Teaching English Set up an obstacle course for your class and let your students guide each other through it using only verbal directions! Learn more: All ESL For this game, teachers call out an item of clothing that the students should grab from the box. Students must then put the clothing on before running back to their team for the next person to go. Learn more: Healthy Kids Select one student to be the "catcher" and all other students line up at one side of the playing zone. The "catcher" calls out something that means students are free to cross the river without being caught (e.g. if you have a red jacket). All other students must then try to make it across without getting caught. Learn more: YouTube Write some simple questions on a beach ball that will encourage your students to use their target vocabulary. The student who catches the ball must ask the question to other participants in the class. Learn more: Super Teacher Worksheets Give your students the opportunity to complete a listening activity with an online test. This activity has a pre-recorded audio text on which students will then answer multiple-choice questions before completing a dictation task. Learn more: Excellent ESL 4 U Listening mats are a fun activity to practice listening skills. You will call out the instructions at the bottom of the page for how to color or add to the picture. Check how well your students have listened by comparing pictures at the end of the task! Learn more: Casual Teaching Practice numbers and body parts with this simple activity. Students can practice their English listening skills as they listen for the body part's name as well as the corresponding number for them to label it with. Learn more: Gru Languages Your English learners must listen closely during this activity to fill in their grid as per the instructions that the teacher will read aloud. This activity gives students the opportunity to practice different types of vocabulary including shapes, colors, animals, food and drink, and items of clothing. Learn more: Twinkl Ask your students to get into pairs before giving them each a blank sheet of paper and the printable sheet of monsters. Each pair of students will then take turns listening to their fellow students describe the monster they need to draw. Learn more: Teachers Pay Teachers You can easily incorporate English listening skills into your daily classroom routine with this amazing activity. Students can scan the QR code with a device to listen to the text before answering the True or False questions. Learn more: Sea of Knowledge These Boom cards are a perfect resource to either print or use digitally. Read the short stories out to your students before having them answer the multiple-choice questions to demonstrate their understanding. Learn more: Teachers Pay Teachers