

# ESL Listening Activities

for

Kids and Adults

# Podcasts

**Objective:** Improve students' listening skills in English while promoting critical thinking and communication.

**Level:** Intermediate to Advanced

**Duration:** 1-2 class periods (adjustable)

## Materials Needed

- Access to a computer or mobile device with internet connectivity
- A selection of relevant podcasts
- A projector or screen (optional)

## Teaching Outline

### **Introduction (10 minutes)**

Begin the lesson by discussing the importance of listening skills in language learning. Explain that listening to real-world content, such as podcasts, helps students improve their comprehension, vocabulary, and pronunciation. Emphasize that podcasts offer diverse perspectives on current issues, making them an excellent source of authentic language input.

### **Podcast Selection (10 minutes)**

Choose two or three podcast episodes that focus on current issues relevant to your students' interests or the curriculum. Ensure that the

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episodes are at an appropriate language level for your students. You can find podcasts on platforms like Spotify, Apple Podcasts, or educational websites.

### **Pre-listening Activities (15 minutes)**

Before listening to the podcast, introduce the topic and key vocabulary or concepts that may appear in the episode. You can create a word bank on the board or provide a handout. Encourage students to make predictions about what they might hear based on the episode's title or description.

### **Listening (20-30 minutes)**

Play the selected podcast episode for the class. You can project it onto a screen or have students listen individually with headphones. Encourage active listening by instructing students to take notes on key points, unfamiliar words, or interesting ideas.

### **Post-listening Activities (20 minutes)**

After listening, engage students in the following activities:

- **Comprehension Questions:** Provide a set of comprehension questions related to the podcast. Students can work individually or in pairs to answer them.
- **Discussion:** Divide the class into small groups and give them time to discuss their thoughts on the podcast episode. Encourage them to share their notes and opinions.
- **Vocabulary Exploration:** Have students share and define any new words or phrases they encountered while listening. Discuss the context in which these words were used.

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- **Critical Analysis:** Ask students to critically analyze the podcast. Did they agree or disagree with the content? What evidence from the episode supports their views?

### **Group Presentations (20 minutes)**

Reorganize the class into small groups and assign each group one of the podcast episodes you selected earlier. Instruct them to prepare a short presentation summarizing the episode's main points and discussing their group's perspective on the topic. Encourage them to use their notes and insights from the post-listening activities.

### **Presentations and Discussion (30 minutes)**

Allow each group to present their findings and opinions to the class. After each presentation, open the floor for questions and discussion. Encourage students to respectfully express their views and engage in debates if necessary.

### **Assessment and Homework (10 minutes)**

Wrap up the lesson by asking students to reflect on what they learned from the activity. Did their listening skills improve? What were the most challenging aspects of the exercise? Assign homework that reinforces the lesson, such as writing a short reflection or summarizing another podcast episode of their choice.

### **Follow-Up (Next Class)**

In the next class, revisit the podcast topic briefly to reinforce the vocabulary and concepts learned. Encourage students to continue exploring podcasts on their own and share interesting episodes or insights with the class.

## Assessment

Assess students' listening skills based on their participation in the discussion, comprehension questions, and the quality of their group presentations. Provide feedback on their language accuracy, fluency, and critical thinking abilities.

This classroom activity not only enhances students' listening skills but also encourages critical thinking, vocabulary development, and meaningful discussions on current issues. It makes use of authentic content and promotes active engagement in the learning process.

# TED Talks

**Objective:** Improve students' listening skills in English and promote critical thinking through the analysis of TED Talks.

**Level:** Intermediate to Advanced

**Duration:** 1-2 class periods (adjustable)

## Materials Needed

- Access to a computer or mobile device with internet connectivity
- A selection of TED Talk videos
- Projector or screen (optional)

## Teaching Outline

### **Introduction (10 minutes)**

Begin the lesson by discussing the significance of strong listening skills in language learning and the real-world applicability of TED Talks. Explain that TED Talks feature diverse speakers sharing their expertise on various topics, making them excellent resources for language learners.

### **TED Talk Selection (10 minutes)**

Choose two or three TED Talk videos that align with your students' interests or the curriculum. Ensure that the talks are at an appropriate

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language level for your students. TED Talks can be found on the official TED website or on YouTube's TED channel.

### **Pre-listening Activities (15 minutes)**

Before watching the TED Talks, introduce the topic of each talk and pre-teach essential vocabulary and concepts. Provide students with discussion questions related to the topics, which they can consider while watching.

### **Watching the TED Talks (20-30 minutes)**

Play the selected TED Talk videos for the class. You can project them onto a screen or have students watch individually with headphones. Encourage active listening by instructing students to take notes on the main ideas, key points, and any new vocabulary.

### **Post-listening Activities (20 minutes)**

After watching the TED Talks, engage students in the following activities:

- **Comprehension Questions:** Provide a set of comprehension questions about each TED Talk. Students can work individually or in pairs to answer them.
- **Discussion:** Divide the class into small groups and give them time to discuss their thoughts on the TED Talks. Encourage them to share their notes and opinions.
- **Vocabulary Exploration:** Have students share and define any new words or phrases they encountered while listening. Discuss the context in which these words were used.
- **Critical Analysis:** Ask students to critically analyze the TED Talks. Did they find the speakers convincing? What evidence from the talks supports their views?

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### **Group Presentations (20 minutes)**

Reorganize the class into small groups and assign each group one of the TED Talks you selected earlier. Instruct them to prepare a short presentation summarizing the main points of the talk and discussing their group's perspective on the topic. Encourage them to use their notes and insights from the post-listening activities.

### **Presentations and Discussion (30 minutes)**

Allow each group to present their findings and opinions to the class. After each presentation, open the floor for questions and discussion. Encourage students to respectfully express their views and engage in debates if necessary.

### **Assessment and Homework (10 minutes)**

Conclude the lesson by asking students to reflect on what they learned from the activity. Did their listening skills improve? What were the most challenging aspects of the exercise? Assign homework that reinforces the lesson, such as writing a short reflection or summarizing another TED Talk of their choice.

### **Follow-Up (Next Class)**

In the next class, revisit the TED Talk topics briefly to reinforce the vocabulary and concepts learned. Encourage students to continue exploring TED Talks on their own and share interesting talks or insights with the class.



## Assessment

Assess students' listening skills based on their participation in the discussion, comprehension questions, and the quality of their group presentations. Provide feedback on their language accuracy, fluency, and critical thinking abilities.

This classroom activity not only enhances students' listening skills but also fosters critical thinking, vocabulary development, and meaningful discussions on a variety of topics. It leverages TED Talks as authentic content to engage students and promote active learning.

# Song Lyrics

**Objective:** Improve students' listening skills in English and reinforce language skills through the analysis of song lyrics.

**Level:** Intermediate to Advanced

**Duration:** 1-2 class periods (adjustable)

## Materials Needed

- A computer or mobile device with internet connectivity
- A selection of song lyrics (preferably from a variety of genres)
- Projector or screen (optional)

## Teaching Outline

### **Introduction (10 minutes)**

Begin the lesson by discussing the importance of music in language learning and how songs can help improve listening skills and vocabulary. Explain that song lyrics often contain rich language and cultural references.

### **Song Selection (10 minutes)**

Choose two or three song lyrics that are appropriate for your students' language level and age group. Select songs with clear pronunciation and lyrics that are not too fast-paced. You can find song lyrics on websites dedicated to song lyrics or streaming platforms.

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### **Pre-listening Activities (15 minutes)**

Before analyzing the song lyrics, introduce the artist and song title. Pre-teach essential vocabulary and idiomatic expressions that may appear in the lyrics. Provide students with discussion questions related to the theme of the song.

### **Listening to the Songs (20-30 minutes)**

Play the selected songs for the class. You can project the lyrics on a screen or have students listen individually with headphones. Encourage them to follow along with the lyrics and take notes on interesting phrases or words.

### **Post-listening Activities (20 minutes)**

After listening to the songs, engage students in the following activities:

- **Lyrics Analysis:** Provide a printed copy of the lyrics for each student or display them on the screen. Have students work in pairs or individually to analyze the lyrics. Encourage them to identify metaphors, similes, cultural references, and any challenging vocabulary.
- **Discussion:** Divide the class into small groups and give them time to discuss their thoughts on the songs. Ask questions about the message of the song, the emotions it conveys, and the artist's style.
- **Vocabulary Exploration:** Have students share and define any new words or phrases they encountered while listening. Discuss the context in which these words were used.
- **Creative Responses:** Ask students to respond creatively to the song lyrics. They can write a short paragraph summarizing the song's message or create a visual representation of the lyrics.

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### **Group Presentations (20 minutes)**

Reorganize the class into small groups and assign each group one of the songs you selected earlier. Instruct them to prepare a short presentation summarizing the lyrics, discussing the song's theme, and sharing their creative responses.

### **Presentations and Discussion (30 minutes)**

Allow each group to present their findings and opinions to the class. After each presentation, open the floor for questions and discussion. Encourage students to share their interpretations of the lyrics and connect them to their own experiences.

### **Assessment and Homework (10 minutes)**

Wrap up the lesson by asking students to reflect on what they learned from the activity. Did their listening skills improve? What insights did they gain from analyzing the lyrics? Assign homework that reinforces the lesson, such as writing a short reflection or analyzing another song of their choice.

### **Follow-Up (Next Class)**

In the next class, revisit the themes and vocabulary introduced in the song lyrics. Encourage students to continue exploring English-language music on their own and share interesting songs or lyrics with the class.

## Assessment

Assess students' listening skills based on their participation in the discussion, lyrics analysis, and the quality of their group presentations.

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Provide feedback on their language accuracy, fluency, and ability to interpret song lyrics.

This classroom activity not only enhances listening skills but also promotes vocabulary development, cultural understanding, and creative thinking through the exploration of song lyrics. It leverages the universal appeal of music to engage students in meaningful language learning.

# News Broadcasts

**Objective:** Improve students' listening skills in English and develop their understanding of current events through the analysis of news broadcasts.

**Level:** Intermediate to Advanced

**Duration:** 1-2 class periods (adjustable)

## Materials Needed

- Access to a computer or mobile device with internet connectivity
- A selection of recent news broadcasts from reputable sources
- Projector or screen (optional)

## Teaching Outline

### **Introduction (10 minutes)**

Begin the lesson by discussing the importance of staying informed about current events and how listening to news broadcasts can help improve language skills. Emphasize that news broadcasts provide authentic and timely language input.

### **News Broadcast Selection (10 minutes)**

Choose two or three recent news broadcasts from reliable sources that are relevant to your students' interests or the curriculum. Ensure that the broadcasts are at an appropriate language level for your students. You

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can find news broadcasts on news websites or YouTube channels of reputable news organizations.

### **Pre-listening Activities (15 minutes)**

Before watching the news broadcasts, introduce the main topics covered in each broadcast and provide some background information. Pre-teach any essential vocabulary or concepts that may appear in the broadcasts. Ask students to generate questions related to the news topics.

### **Watching the News Broadcasts (20-30 minutes)**

Play the selected news broadcasts for the class. You can project them on a screen or have students watch individually with headphones. Encourage active listening by instructing students to take notes on key points, important facts, and the main message of each broadcast.

### **Post-listening Activities (20 minutes)**

After watching the news broadcasts, engage students in the following activities:

- **Comprehension Questions:** Provide a set of comprehension questions related to each news broadcast. Students can work individually or in pairs to answer them.
- **Discussion:** Divide the class into small groups and give them time to discuss their thoughts on the news. Encourage them to share their notes and opinions on the topics covered.
- **Vocabulary Exploration:** Have students share and define any new words or phrases they encountered while listening. Discuss the context in which these words were used.
- **Critical Analysis:** Ask students to critically analyze the news broadcasts. Were there multiple perspectives presented? Did

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they notice any bias in the reporting? Encourage them to consider the impact of the news on society.

### **Group Presentations (20 minutes)**

Reorganize the class into small groups and assign each group one of the news broadcasts you selected earlier. Instruct them to prepare a short presentation summarizing the main points of the news report and discussing their group's perspective on the topic. Encourage them to use their notes and insights from the post-listening activities.

### **Presentations and Discussion (30 minutes)**

Allow each group to present their findings and opinions to the class. After each presentation, open the floor for questions and discussion. Encourage students to share their interpretations of the news and engage in meaningful debates.

### **Assessment and Homework (10 minutes)**

Conclude the lesson by asking students to reflect on what they learned from the activity. Did their listening skills improve? What insights did they gain from analyzing the news broadcasts? Assign homework that reinforces the lesson, such as writing a summary of another recent news article or watching news broadcasts on their own.

### **Follow-Up (Next Class)**

In the next class, revisit the news topics briefly to reinforce vocabulary and concepts. Encourage students to continue following the news in English and share interesting news stories or insights with the class.



## Assessment

Assess students' listening skills based on their participation in the discussion, comprehension questions, and the quality of their group presentations. Provide feedback on their language accuracy, fluency, and ability to critically analyze news content.

This classroom activity not only enhances listening skills but also fosters critical thinking, vocabulary development, and awareness of current events. It encourages students to engage with authentic news content and practice using English in real-world contexts.

# Movie Scenes

**Objective:** Improve students' listening skills in English and enhance their comprehension and language abilities through the analysis of movie scenes.

**Level:** Intermediate to Advanced

**Duration:** 1-2 class periods (adjustable)

## Materials Needed

- A computer or DVD player with access to selected movie scenes
- A selection of movie scenes with clear audio and subtitles (if available)
- Projector or screen (optional)

## Teaching Outline

### **Introduction (10 minutes)**

Begin the lesson by discussing the relevance of movies in language learning and how watching movie scenes can help improve listening skills and enrich vocabulary. Explain that movie scenes often contain natural conversational language.

### **Movie Scene Selection (10 minutes)**

Choose two or three movie scenes that are appropriate for your students' language level and age group. Ensure that the scenes are not too lengthy

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and have clear audio. Select scenes from different genres to cater to diverse interests. You can use DVDs, streaming platforms, or clips available online.

### **Pre-listening Activities (15 minutes)**

Before watching the movie scenes, introduce the context of each scene and provide some background information about the characters, setting, and plot. Pre-teach essential vocabulary and idiomatic expressions that may appear in the scenes. Ask students to generate questions related to the movie scenes.

### **Watching the Movie Scenes (20-30 minutes)**

Play the selected movie scenes for the class. You can project them on a screen or have students watch individually with headphones. Encourage them to focus on listening for comprehension and understanding the context of the scenes.

### **Post-listening Activities (20 minutes)**

After watching the movie scenes, engage students in the following activities:

- **Scene Summary:** Have students summarize the key events and dialogue in the movie scenes in their own words. Encourage them to share their summaries with a partner.
- **Dialogue Analysis:** Provide a printed copy of the dialogue from each scene. Have students work in pairs or individually to analyze the dialogue, identifying interesting phrases, idioms, or slang. Discuss the context in which these expressions were used.
- **Character Perspectives:** Ask students to imagine themselves in the shoes of one of the characters from the scene. Have them

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describe how they would react or feel in that situation, using English to express their thoughts and emotions.

- **Discussion:** Divide the class into small groups and give them time to discuss their thoughts on the scenes. Ask questions about the characters' motivations, the themes explored, and any surprises in the scenes.

### **Group Presentations (20 minutes)**

Reorganize the class into small groups and assign each group one of the movie scenes you selected earlier. Instruct them to prepare a short presentation summarizing the scene, discussing the character dynamics, and sharing their perspectives on the events.

### **Presentations and Discussion (30 minutes)**

Allow each group to present their findings and opinions to the class. After each presentation, open the floor for questions and discussion. Encourage students to engage in meaningful conversations about the scenes and explore different interpretations.

### **Assessment and Homework (10 minutes)**

Conclude the lesson by asking students to reflect on what they learned from the activity. Did their listening skills improve? What insights did they gain from analyzing the movie scenes? Assign homework that reinforces the lesson, such as writing a short review of a movie or scene they enjoyed.

### **Follow-Up (Next Class)**

In the next class, revisit some of the vocabulary and expressions introduced in the movie scenes. Encourage students to continue

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watching movies or TV series in English and share interesting scenes or dialogue with the class.

### Assessment

Assess students' listening skills based on their participation in the discussion, scene summary, dialogue analysis, and the quality of their group presentations. Provide feedback on their language accuracy, fluency, and ability to understand and express themselves in real-world contexts.

This classroom activity not only enhances listening skills but also promotes vocabulary development, cultural awareness, and critical thinking through the analysis of movie scenes. It leverages the visual and auditory appeal of movies to engage students in meaningful language learning.

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