











Improve your listening skills

Listening is the most difficult skill to improve quickly, so it needs **lots of practice**. Using listening test sites provides **a purpose for listening** and **aids motivation**. Listening tests improve your listening skills as they help you **check your understanding**, **identify main ideas** and **recognise key supporting details**.

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| 1 |  | <p>Breaking News English</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-minute listening • Multi-level A2- C1 • General news topics • Choice of different speeds • Gap fill, multiple-choice and comprehension questions • www.breakingnewsenglish.com |
| 2 |  | <p>Cambridge IELTS Exam Listening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30-minute listening / 4 sections • Multi-level A2 – C2 • Sections 1 & 3: conversations • Sections 2 & 4: monologues • Gap fill, table completion, multiple choice, etc... • www.engexam.info/ielts-listening-practice-tests/ |
| 3 |  | <p>Cambridge B2 First Exam Listening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40-minute listening / 4 sections • B1 – B2 level • Section 1 & 4: conversations • Section 2 & 3: monologues • Multiple-choice, complete missing information, tables, etc... • www.engexam.info/fce-listening-practice-tests/ |
| 4 |  | <p>Reading University Lectures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40-minute listening • B2 – C1 level • Introductory, general interest, & subject specific lectures • Listen, take notes, and answer the comprehension questions • www.reading.ac.uk/sacl/universityofreadinglectures |
| 5 |  | <p>Academic English UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-minute academic lectures • B1 – C2 level • Academic topics • Multiple-choice, gap fill, T F NG, table completion, etc... • Membership site • https://academic-englishuk.com/free/ |
| 6 |  | <p>Ello</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-minute listening • All levels • Natural English, grammar based English and academic English • A variety of accents • Recording, script and short quiz • http://www.ello.org |

Some other good listening sites:

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| 1 |  | <p>TED Talks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18-minutes or less listening • Multi-level A2- C2 (videos not graded) • Influential videos from expert speakers on education, business, science, technology and creativity • A summary of the talk, transcript and subtitles • https://www.ted.com |
| 2 |  | <p>BBC 6 Minute English*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-minute listening • Multi-level A2- B2 • Topical discussion / current affairs • Radio show with two presenters • 1 multiple choice quiz question and vocabulary development • https://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/6-minute-english |
| 3 |  | <p>YouTube*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of academic lectures: • Yale University: https://www.youtube.com/yale/videos • Stanford: https://www.youtube.com/c/stanford/videos • Harvard: https://www.youtube.com/c/harvard/videos • Oxford Academic: https://www.youtube.com/c/OUPAcademic/videos • Absolutely anything! |
| 4 |  | <p>Future Learn**</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A British digital education platform • 100's of short online courses (from business to programming) • Courses ranges from 2 weeks – 12 weeks • Sign up. It's free! • https://www.futurelearn.com |

Other listening platforms to try

Common TV Channels in the UK (free)**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer>

<https://www.itv.com>

<https://www.channel4.com>

<https://www.channel5.com>

Films and TV (subscription)

<https://www.netflix.com>

<https://www.amazon.co.uk>

News Channels*

<https://www.bbc.com/news>

<https://www.reuters.com/video/>

<https://www.euronews.com>

* Not available in China

**Not available outside UK