

Multimedia Web Sites for Improving Listening Comprehension Skills

Randall S. Davis

www.esl-lab.com





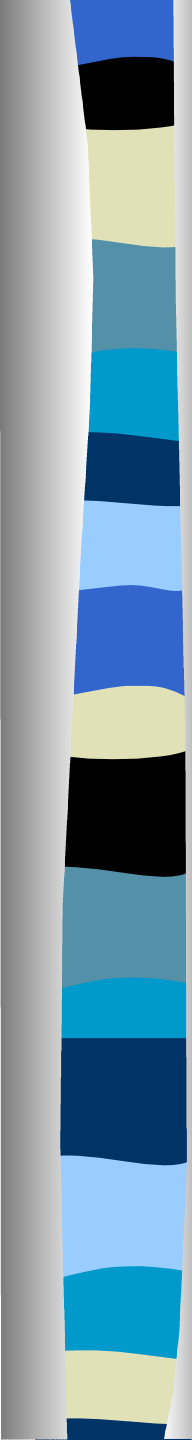
Purpose

- ◆ To discuss how the Internet can be used to help English learners improve their listening comprehension skills.



Outline

- ◆ Explain the procedures (challenges and benefits) for learning online
- ◆ Discuss media applications for playing online audio and video
- ◆ Highlight a number of Web-based resources for enhancing listening skills

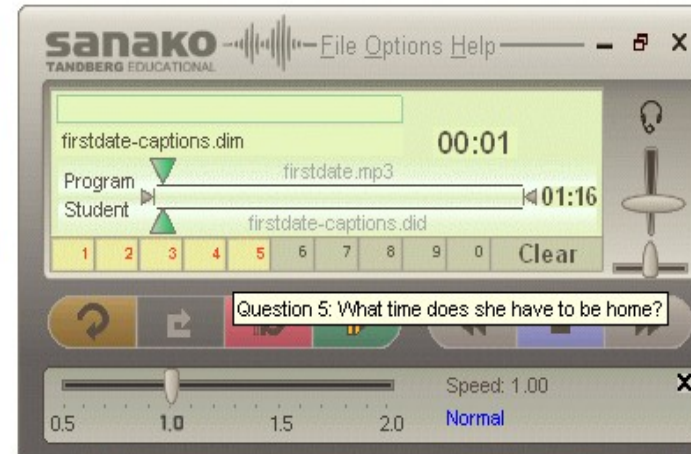


Procedures for Using Online Listening Resources

- ◆ Never underestimate its complexity
- ◆ Identify specific learning outcomes.
- ◆ Develop tasks that building critical-thinking skills
- ◆ Test the Web Sites yourself for content appropriateness and usability
- ◆ Install needed media applications
- ◆ Determine the longevity of the site
- ◆ Remember that integration takes time

Media Applications

Windows Media Player
RealOne
Flash
QuickTime
Sanako Media Assistant



Conversation between daughter
and father . . .



Windows Media Player

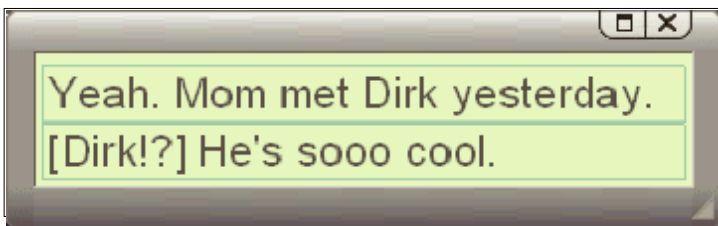
- Pre-installed on all PCs
- Plays .mp3 format
- Includes play speed settings



Sanako Media Assistant



- Handles all major media types
- Displays captions or other text
- Bookmarks files for easy review
- Controls speed of media files
- Records/saves files in various formats including .mp3 and .wma

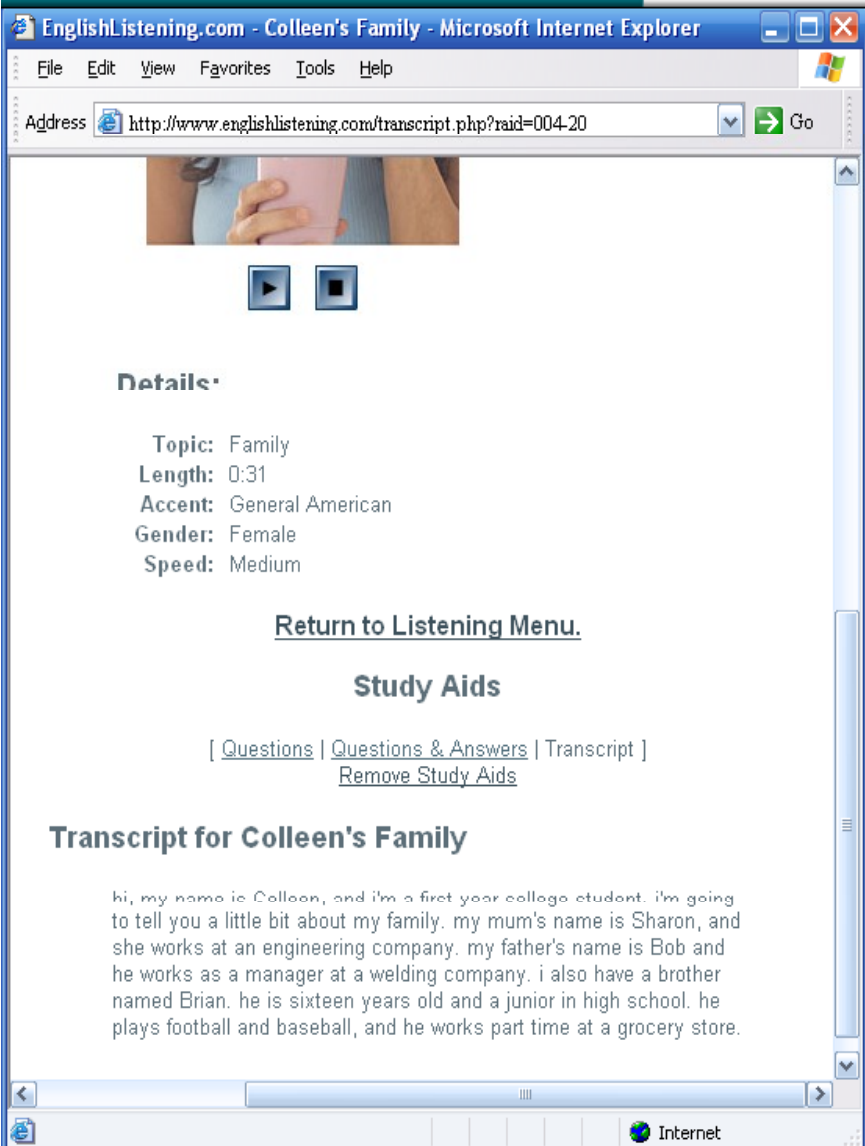


www.englishlistening.com
English Listening Lounge

- Flash audio
- Natural, unscripted recordings
- Questions and transcripts

Activities:


- Have students look at the picture and make predictions about Colleen.
- Listen and summarize in the third person.
- Practice using reported speech.
- Is Colleen a person you think could be your friend? Why or why not?



EnglishListening.com - Colleen's Family - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address <http://www.englishlistening.com/transcript.php?raid=004-20> Go



▶ ■

Details:

Topic: Family
Length: 0:31
Accent: General American
Gender: Female
Speed: Medium

[Return to Listening Menu.](#)

Study Aids

[[Questions](#) | [Questions & Answers](#) | [Transcript](#)]
[Remove Study Aids](#)

Transcript for Colleen's Family

hi, my name is Colleen, and i'm a first year college student. i'm going to tell you a little bit about my family. my mum's name is Sharon, and she works at an engineering company. my father's name is Bob and he works as a manager at a welding company. i also have a brother named Brian. he is sixteen years old and a junior in high school. he plays football and baseball, and he works part time at a grocery store.

Internet

www.ello.org
English Listening Lab Online

- Flash audio
- Scripted and natural recordings
- Questions and transcripts

Activities:

- Write a list of 15 different activities that people often do in the morning.
- Organize this list according to the most logical time sequence. Listen and compare your predictions to the actual responses.
- Which of the six people most fits your own lifestyle?

er - Microsoft Internet Explorer
View Favorites Tools Help
Search Favorites
http://www.ello.org/yeartwo/mixer/typical_morning/typical_morning.htm Go

[Mixer Page](#)

What is a typical morning for you?

There are six responses to the question above. You can click on the face of each person to hear their response.

At the end of each audio, there are two questions about what was said.

If you answer correctly, you go forward. If you do not answer correctly, you have to listen again.

www.ello.org

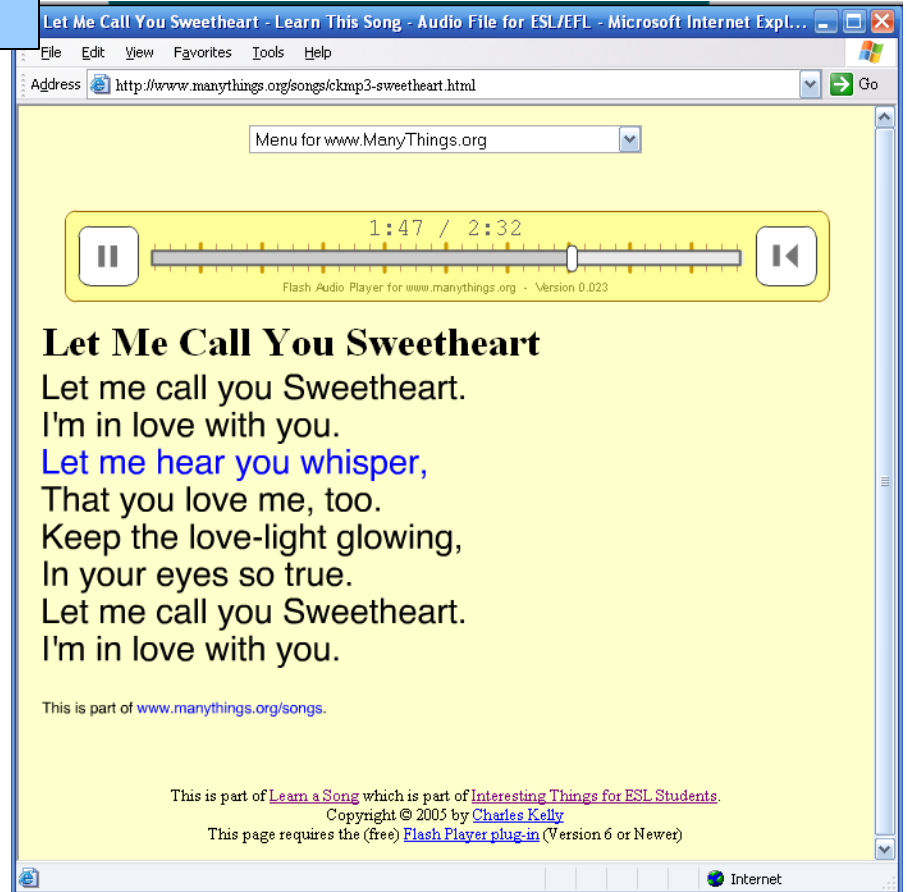
Done Internet

www.manythings.org/songs/
Learn a Song Podcast

- Flash audio / MP3
- Entertaining and educational songs

Activities:

- Look up the background of the song and the original author.
- Discuss the mean on the lyrics.
- Listen and then sing along.
- Discuss how you could keep the “love-light glowing” in a relationship.



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The title bar reads "Let Me Call You Sweetheart - Learn This Song - Audio File for ESL/EFL - Microsoft Internet Expl...". The address bar shows the URL "http://www.manythings.org/songs/ckmp3-sweetheart.html". The page content features a yellow background with a menu for "www.ManyThings.org" at the top. Below the menu is a Flash audio player with a progress bar showing "1:47 / 2:32". The lyrics are displayed in black text, with "Let me hear you whisper," highlighted in blue. At the bottom, there is a copyright notice: "Copyright © 2005 by Charles Kelly" and a note that the page requires the Flash Player plug-in.

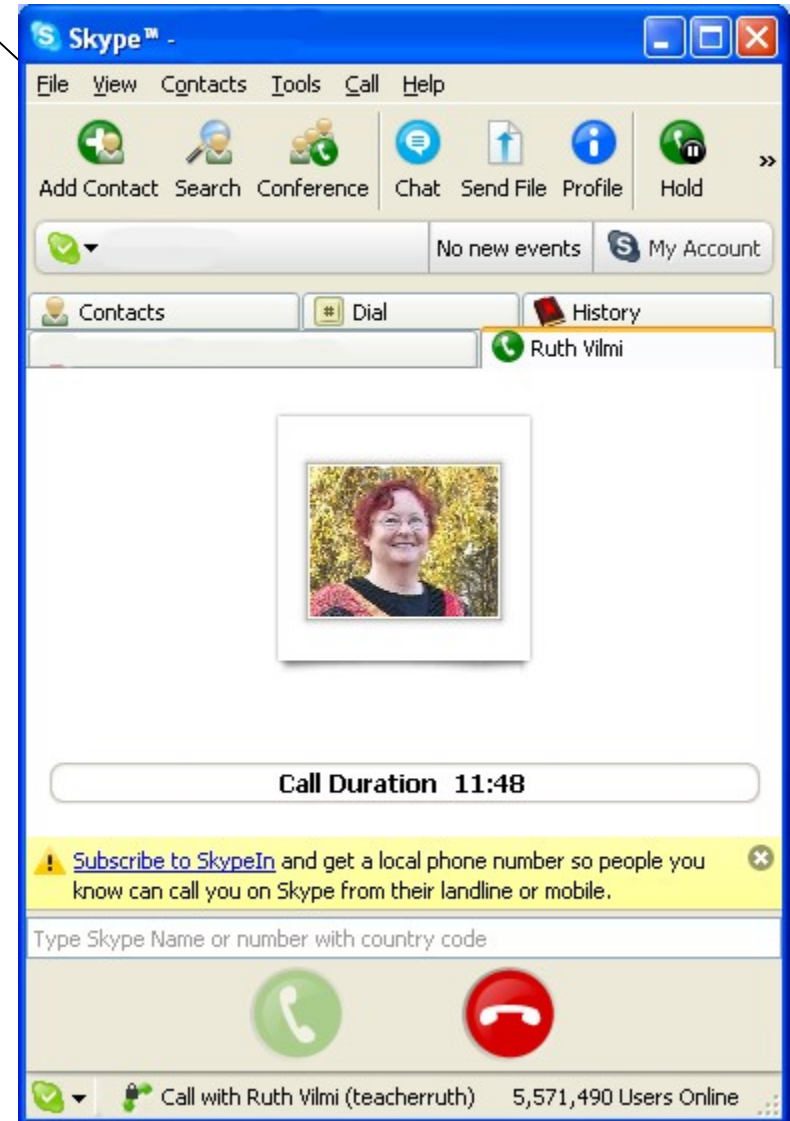
<http://oracleband.net/Lyrics/let-me-call-you-sweetheart.htm>

www.skype.com
Skype: Internet Telephone

- Free proprietary software
- PC and Mac
- Individual or group call sessions
- Text chat feature

Activities:

- Set up conversation partners with students from around the world.
- Assign a short, specific task for learners to accomplish.
- Teach Internet safety.



www.esl-lab.com

Randall's ESL Cyber Listening Lab

- RealMedia / Windows Media
- Everyday conversational topics
- Listening and speaking activities

Activities:

- If you found yourself in this situation, what would / could you do?

Okay. The out-of-town rate. Let's see. Okay, here we fuel line, that'll be \$100 . . . No, no, That's the local rate for the pre-screening check, \$150 for parts, plus or 3, and \$75 an hour for labor. Oh, oh yeah. Today's a labor is actually \$50 more per hour.

r: Huh? Those prices are **outrageous**, and what holiday

DEFINITION:
outrageous

Oh, it's the local pun

very expensive

r: Ah, come on. I can't believe this. Of all my luck, my

[[Quiz Script](#) | [Text Completion Quiz](#)]

Car Repairs

- I. Pre-Listening Exercises
- II. Listening Exercises
- III. Post-Listening Exercises

Level:	Topic:	Type:	Speakers:	Length:
difficult	transportation	conversation	two men	02:17

I. Pre-Listening Exercises [\[Top\]](#)

What are some common car problems that require special maintenance or repair?

II. Listening Exercises [\[Top\]](#)

1. Listen to the conversation by pressing the "Play Audio" button and answer the questions. Press the "Final Score" button to check your quiz.

PLAY - RealMedia

PLAY - Windows Media

1. What one possible problem was NOT mentioned about the man's car?

- A. a stopped-up fuel line

www.trainyouraccent.com
Train Your Accent

- Windows Media
- Everyday conversational topics
- Focuses on reduced speech

Train Your Accent:

ESL Accent Reduction Training
and Conversational English Practice

SELECT LESSON

Apartment Rentals
Breakfast
Cellphones
Clothing
Dental Care
Driver's Education
Exercise
Family Relationships
Lunch
Job Hunting
Movie Rental
Online Classes
Online Shopping
Restaurants
Study Abroad
Train Tickets

HOME

SELECT LESSON

This Site

- > [About This Site](#)
- > [Accent Symbols](#)

succeeding ► adjective
sive, following, ensuing
success ► noun ① the
VOURABLE OUTCOME, suc
result, triumph. ② the
years. progress
the
the
the

Welcome to Train Your Accent!



Improve your accent and rhythm in English . . . and learn daily expressions at the same time. **Train Your Accent** provides you with samples of relaxed, North American English that reflect everyday activities and helps you sound more natural. Furthermore, understanding reduced speech will help you understand others better.

Before anything else, be sure to read the page, [About This Site](#), to understand the purpose of these materials and how to best use them.

Visit these other Websites for more listening material:

Activities:

- **Pre-Listening:**

Describe a typical breakfast in your family and how you would make it.

- **Listening:** Read the short dialogue first for understanding. Then, listen and pay careful attention to the word reductions. Slow down the audio as needed.

- **Post-Listening:** Complete the speaking activities, paying careful attention to your own language use.

The screenshot shows a software interface for an ESL training program. The main window has a yellow header with the title "Cooking Breakfast" and a small image of a breakfast meal. Below the header, there is a "Listen and Practice:" section with a "Play - Windows Media" button. Underneath is an "Actual Transcription:" section containing a short dialogue about cooking breakfast. At the bottom of the window, there are two numbered discussion tasks. The first task asks the user to explain how they prepare eggs and what they know about improving cooking skills. The second task asks the user to look for a new egg recipe online and share it with a partner. The window also includes a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Favorites, Tools, Help), a status bar (Done, My Computer), and a copyright notice at the bottom: "Copyright © 2006. Randall Davis and Licensers. All rights reserved. Check [Terms of Use](#)."

Cooking Breakfast

Listen and Practice:

Play - Windows Media

Actual Transcription:

Cooking breakfast can be fun if you enjoy it , and making food for someone else is even better. I usually cook eggs and bacon. First, I warm up the stove and then beat the eggs in a bowl. I prefer scrambled eggs, but I can make just about any type. I warm up the burner on the stove, and I pour the eggs in a frying pan. I use a spatula to mix and turn

1. Discussion: Explain how **ye** prepare eggs your favorite way. If **ye** don't cook, then pretend you're cooking **fer a** friend. What things **kn ye** do **te** improve your cooking skills?

2. The Internet: Look **fer a** new egg recipe online, **en'** share the ideas with **a** partner.

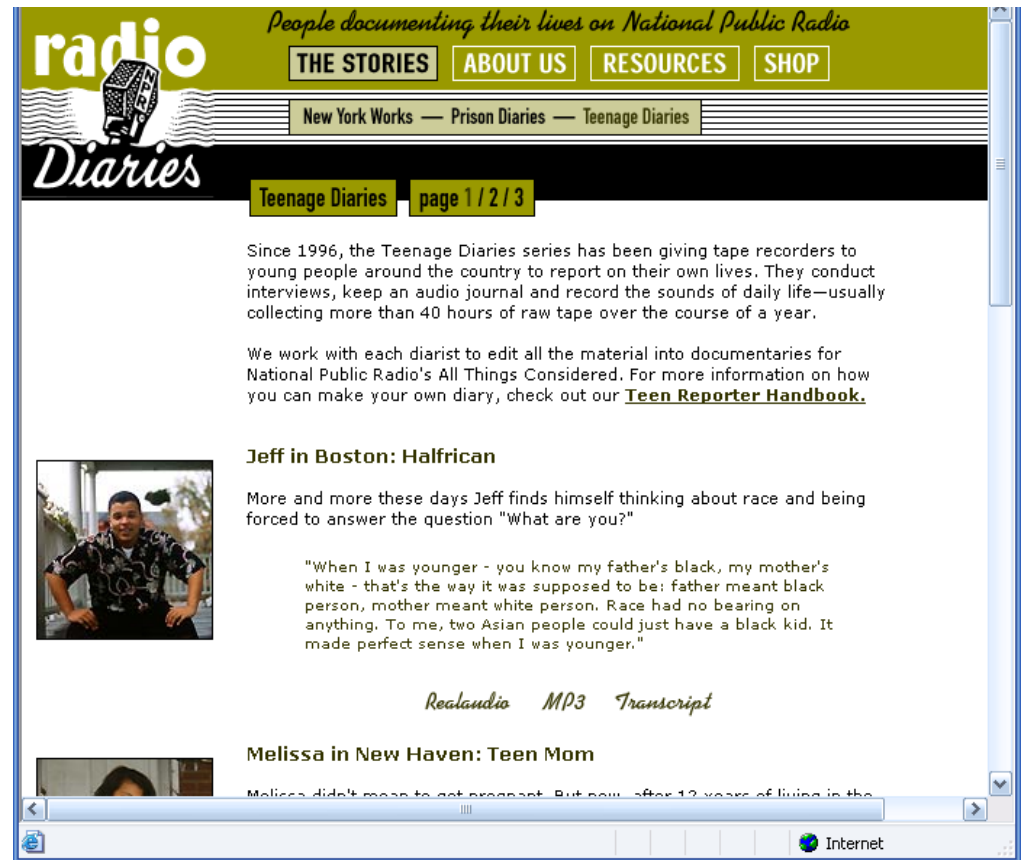
Copyright © 2006. Randall Davis and Licensers. All rights reserved. Check [Terms of Use](#).

www.radiodiaries.org
Radio Diaries

- RealMedia / MP3
- Interesting, down-to-earth stories
- Transcripts

Activities:

- Select a topic of interest (in this case, mixed marriages and families.
- What are some of the challenges that people might face in similar situations?
- How can people encourage understanding (more than tolerance) when we encounter differences?



The screenshot shows the Radio Diaries website interface. At the top, there is a green header with the text "radio Diaries" and "People documenting their lives on National Public Radio". Below this are navigation buttons for "THE STORIES", "ABOUT US", "RESOURCES", and "SHOP". A secondary navigation bar includes "New York Works", "Prison Diaries", and "Teenage Diaries". The main content area is titled "Teenage Diaries" and "page 1 / 2 / 3". The text describes the Teenage Diaries series, which has been running since 1996, giving tape recorders to young people to document their lives. It mentions that the material is edited into documentaries for National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" and provides a link to a "Teen Reporter Handbook". A section titled "Jeff in Boston: Halffrican" features a photo of a young man and a quote about his experience with race. Below this, there are links for "Reaudio", "MP3", and "Transcript". Another section titled "Melissa in New Haven: Teen Mom" is partially visible at the bottom.

www.bbc.co.uk/wales/digitalstorytelling
Digital Story Telling

- RealVideo
- Interesting, down-to-earth stories
- Transcripts

Activities:

- Summarize the major events of Charlie's life including birth, marriage, and death.
- What important values did Charlie leave to his son?
- If you only had time to write fifteen words to leave your posterity, what would they be?



The screenshot shows the BBC Digital Storytelling website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, TV, Radio, Talk, Where I Live, and A-Z Index. The main heading is "Digital Storytelling". Below this, there is a date "8 March 2006" and links for "Accessibility help" and "Text only". The left sidebar contains links for "BBC Homepage", "Wales home", "Digital Storytelling", "About Links", "Process", "Capture Wales", and "Cipolwg (Welsh)". The main content area is titled "Family History" and features a large video thumbnail of a woman and a child. Below this, there is a grid of smaller video thumbnails with titles and descriptions:

- The Colour of Life**: 'Searching the musty books in the archives.' Jill Williams
- Never Give Up Hope**: 'We went back to Phnom Penh, but nothing there.' Sokphal Din
- A Sailor's Life**: 'I wish I could have asked him more about his life.' Ron Johnson
- Family History / Lies**: 'Sometimes I woke at night crying, "Nobody loves me."' Liz Hinds
- Welcome Home**: 'I'm proud to be that little bit Indian.' Linzy Attenborough
- An Identity**: 'I discovered by accident I had been adopted.' Pam Knight
- A Family Man**
- Under the Eye**

On the right side, there is a section titled "IN THIS SECTION" with a list of video titles and authors:

- Family History
- The Colour of Life - Jill Williams
- Never Give Up Hope - Sokphal Din
- A Sailor's Life - Ron Johnson
- Family History / Lies - Liz Hinds
- Welcome Home - Linzy Attenborough
- An Identity - Pam Knight
- A Family Man - Leslie Lowes
- Under the Eye - Keith Rattenb
- An Old Postcard - Pauline Wainwright
- French Connections - Madelei Purswani
- Complete - Mariko Francombe
- That's Who I Am - Raphael Schutzer-Weissmann
- Fragments - Christine Finn
- The Thread - Russ Palmer
- The Chapel Carpenters - Gary T. Davies
- My Grandparents' Legacy - Philomena Cooper

www.ezslang.com
EZ Slang

- RealMedia / MP3
- Focuses on idioms and common slang
- Quizzes, speaking, and multi-skilled activities




Activities:

- What are five things you look for when selecting accommodations on your next trip?

I. Warm Up

Finding cheap hotels with some nice amenities is often important to budget travelers like international students. Youth hostels, traditional inns, and pensions are also possible accommodations that would suit travelers. Listen to this conversation on the topic. What problems to Ryan and Alex encounter on their trip?



II. Conversation - Listen

Pronunciation Tip: *DO YOU* changes to *DO YA* or *DYA*.

Background: *Ryan and Alex are attending a conference in Hawaii for three days. They have just been dropped off near several hotels.*

Ryan: Ah, here we are. What *dya* think of the hotel?

Key Vocabulary: [Sample Sentences]

- **man** (interjection): used to emphasize what you are saying, particularly in emotional situations
- **sweet**: great, fantastic
- **the man**: used to praise someone for having done something very well
- **awesome**: very good
- **pull someone's leg**: tell something that isn't true as a joke
- **nope**: informal for no
- **come across**: find
- **dump**: an old, rundown, or messy place, often used to refer to apartments, houses, or hotels