Multimedia Web Sites for Improving Listening Comprehension Skills

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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
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
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?
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?
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.

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.
Activities:

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

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.

1. What one possible problem was NOT mentioned about the man's car?
   - A. a stopped-up fuel line
Train Your Accent

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

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 sound 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.
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?
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?
Activities:

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