Randall's ESL Cyber Listening Lab

www.esl-lab.com
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Description:

- *Randall's ESL Cyber Listening Lab* is an online, multimedia listening Website designed to help ESOL students improve their listening comprehension skills in English. It has also been used widely in the US by the hearing impaired with cochlear implants.
- The use of the online activities is completely free and requires no login. Students and teachers from over 150 countries have visited the site since 1998.

Background:

- Lab first established in Japan as an independent educational project and is currently being developed in Utah, USA.
- The original idea for the lab started from when few listening materials existed online specifically designed for language learners.
- All of the materials, including the transcripts, questions, activities, and audio/video, are created and recorded by Randall and his support team (basically, family and friends).

Features:

- The **mobile-responsive site** works well on smartphones, laptops, and desktop computers.
- *Over 300 original learning quizzes and activities* cover both everyday language topics (e.g., making invitations, checking into a hotel, buying a used car, etc.) as well as interviews, news broadcasts, and simulated TV and radio programs.
- A large selection of *culture videos* that help learners explore topics in a visual way.
- Use of *adult and children's voices* with different conversational styles and natural speech that has not been overly simplified for the language learners.
- Content can be used for *classroom instruction* or *individual learning*.
- Listening quizzes are organized *according to level* based on topic, vocabulary, rate of speech.
- *Pre-, Listening, and Post-listening Activities* support and build on each listening quiz for more learning experience.
- *Online Investigations Activities* encourage learners to use the information from each activity to further their knowledge and thinking skills in researching a topic online.

How to Use the Site:

The site is designed for both desktop and mobile devices. The listening are organized by level or topic on the main page. Select a category from the main page.

► Pre-Listening Exercises:

Each listening activity provides details on the level of difficulty, the topic, and the speakers for the quiz.

These details are followed by a Pre-Listening Exercise to help learners think about the topic and make predictions before they listen to the conversation.

► Listening Exercises:

Learners answer several multiple-choice questions and are encouraged to read these before listening to the recording. The questions are designed to assess the learner's understanding of main ideas, inferences, prediction, cause and effect relationships, and comprehension of details like numbers and dates. Immediate feedback is given for each question (correct or incorrect), and learners will see the transcript of the conversation that reveals details to the answer.

What does the girl want for Christmas?

- ☐ marbles
- ☑ **dolls**
- ☐ Barbie playhouse

Correct!

Emily: "If I can't have a Barbie radio, um, I would have some fragile dolls. And if I can't have some fragile dolls, it doesn't really matter what I get."

► Media Files:

The media files are in MP3 and MP4 formats that play directly in your computer or mobile browser without the need for any additional software application.

► Post-Listening and Online Investigation Exercises:

This section provides topics of discussion that encourage learners to share their ideas, experiences, and opinions with classmates by using the vocabulary, expressions, and grammar found in the conversation.

Furthermore, these exercises include online investigation tasks where students use the Internet to collect, compare, and report on information they find. Thus, rather than just memorizing information from the activity through simple drill-and-practice exercises, the student is now given opportunities to create totally new language based on what they have learned.

► Listening Transcripts:

Learners also have the option of reading the transcript of the conversation as the listen along with the recording. Key vocabulary words throughout the conversation are highlighted in bold.

Randall is helping _____ move to a new apartment.

- ☐ a family member
- ☐ his boss