

How to teach listening

Workbook

Your reflective journal
and additional resources



Foreword

We're delighted you've chosen to continue your professional development with TeachingEnglish training and look forward to learning with you over the coming weeks.

In this workbook, you'll find additional learning materials to complement your course, places to note ideas of interest, encouragement and guidance in applying them in your teaching practice. Whether you prefer to save and update it on your device, to keep handwritten notes, or use it as a prompt for your on-the-go reflection, do what works for you. We hope you and your learners find it beneficial.

If you haven't signed up for the free course, go to [the course training page](#) to enrol.

Happy learning,

The British Council open learning team.



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Your learning goals, your course

Develop your understanding of listening skills and find activities to help your learners enjoy learning from listening.

During this TeachingEnglish training, you'll engage with learning content in four modules, supported by extra learning content in our Facebook community. You'll find practical support and encouragement from course tutors and other members of the [British Council courses for teachers global learning community](#) as you work to introduce new teaching ideas within your classroom.

Just as every classroom is unique, so is your learning journey. Ensure you're heading in the right direction by reflecting upon and noting your reasons for taking this course and learning goals. Keeping these in mind will help you focus on the most beneficial content and discussions for you.

Your goals and reasons for learning

Introduce yourself and your learning goals by replying to [the welcome post](#).



Your learning tools

Online learning modules

After completing the introductory Getting started module, work through three modules, each exploring a different area of teaching and learning. Involving an average of 12 hours of study, this course blends theory, practical teaching suggestions and case studies that explore new ways of teaching. Repeat, return to and review activities as often as you like before the end of your course. Learn how to access the online learning modules by visiting the [courses page on TeachingEnglish](#).

Courses for teachers community

Join course tutors and other educators working on their professional development in our supportive, Facebook-based learning community. Gain access to a wide selection of additional learning resources and engage in developmental discussions while getting the support and encouragement you need to successfully bring ideas from the course into your classroom. Access all the discussions and content related to your specific course in the [Guides section](#) on the [community Facebook page](#).

Workbook

Use this workbook to record useful course and community content, questions you'd like to ask in the community, links to resources, or to note ideas from any of the extra resources or recorded events. Save a version online or print the workbook - or both.

Extra resources and recorded events

Access extra resources and recorded events through the links in this workbook. Search [TeachingEnglish](#) for other resources and more recorded events about teaching listening.



Module 1: Understanding listening skills

Overview

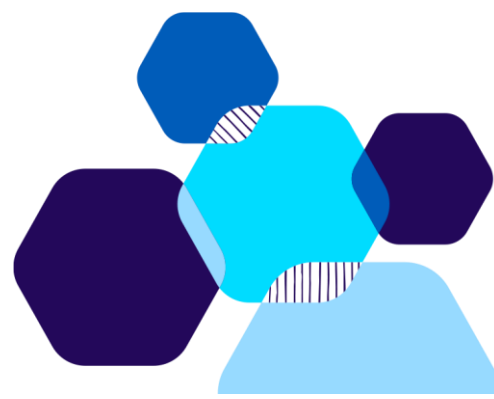
This module aims to help you teach listening skills. You'll look at the differences between real-life and in-class listening, as well as how to identify learners' specific needs and the practical challenges they face with listening in English. The module also provides practice in planning listening tasks.

By the end of this module, you'll be able to:

- identify differences between real-life and in-class listening
- analyse learners' listening needs
- list listening sub-skills and activities that allow learners to practise these sub-skills
- evaluate problems associated with teaching listening and generate solutions
- design and plan classroom listening activities.

Further reading, teaching, and learning resources

Type	Resource description (tap/click to open)
Use	Lesson plan for secondary to develop listening skills by watching a video
Use	Lesson plan for secondary which develops listening gap fill skills
Use	Lesson plans for primary using poems
Use	Poster with ideas for teaching listening
Use	A framework for planning a listening lesson
Use	Lesson plans with audio to develop higher order thinking skills
Read	Article with ideas for using songs in class
Read	Article about developing listening skills in young learners
Read	Article with ideas for helping secondary students with listening



Read	Article sharing strategies that develop five essential listening skills for language learners.
Watch	Video with five essential listening skills for language learners
Watch	Video demonstrating how teachers can use a nursery rhyme for a fun listening lesson.
Watch	Video with ideas about how to incorporate listening and reading texts



Your learning

Which new ideas in Module 1 are most useful for you? Note them here together with any questions you'd like to ask in the [British Council courses for teachers learning community](#).

Describe three things you learned from...

Your online module

Resources you found and discussions in the course community

Extra resources and recorded events



Plan it

Describe one thing you will change in your teaching. Why have you chosen it?

What problems might happen when you try to make this change?

What could you do to solve those problems?

Share your plans in the Facebook community [in this post](#).

Teach it

Try it out and come back here to reflect on the experience. What did you learn?

Share your reflections in the Facebook community [in this post](#).



Module 2: Engaging with listening – active listening

Overview

The aim of this module is to consider the importance of active listening for both teachers and learners. The module looks at what active listening is and what interferes with it and highlights features that encourage active-listening skills.

By the end of this module, you'll be able to:

- explore active listening skills and strategies
- identify problems with active listening
- apply strategies to improve active listening skills
- evaluate how acquiring active listening skills could be beneficial to teachers and learners
- apply strategies to improve active listening skills.

Further reading, teaching, and learning resources

Type	Resource description (tap/click to open)
Use	Lesson ideas for secondary to develop active listening skills
Use	Lesson plan for adults which focuses on developing active listening
Read	Article about what good listening looks like
Read	Article about why active listening is valuable
Read	Article about how we can help students become better communicators
Watch	Webinar about how to foster dialogue through active listening
Watch	Webinar explaining what active listening is and how to do it



Your learning

Which new ideas in Module 2 are most useful for you? Note them here together with any questions you'd like to ask in the [British Council courses for teachers learning community](#).

Describe three things you learned from...

Your online module

Resources you found and discussions in the course community

Extra resources and recorded events



Plan it

Describe one thing you will change in your teaching. Why have you chosen it?

What problems might happen when you try to make this change?

What could you do to solve those problems?

Share your plans in the Facebook community [in this post](#).

Teach it

Try it out and come back here to reflect on the experience. What did you learn?

Share your reflections in the Facebook community [in this post](#).



Module 3: Engaging with listening – strategies

Overview

The aim of this module is to provide an introduction to listening strategies. The module defines what people listen to and why, and what can help your learners – and you, as a teacher – to listen effectively.

By the end of this module, you'll be able to:

- list the differences between spoken and written forms of language
- describe strategies for helping learners to listen more effectively
- identify examples of transactional and interactional listening
- analyse and plan classroom activities that promote strategies to increase effective listening skills.

Further reading, teaching, and learning resources

Type	Resource description (tap/click to open)
Use	Lesson plans for listening practice with different accents and colloquial expressions
Use	Poster with ideas for pre listening activities
Read	Article exploring the difference between top-down and bottom-up listening
Read	Article explaining how to make listening an authentic experience
Read	Article explaining how to use podcasts to develop listening skills
Watch	Webinar looking at authentic listening
Watch	Video with ideas of how to develop bottom-up listening



Your learning

Which new ideas in Module 3 are most useful for you? Note them here together with any questions you'd like to ask in the [British Council courses for teachers learning community](#).

Describe three things you learned from...

Your online module

Resources you found and discussions in the course community

Extra resources and recorded events



Plan it

Describe one thing you will change in your teaching. Why have you chosen it?

What problems might happen when you try to make this change?

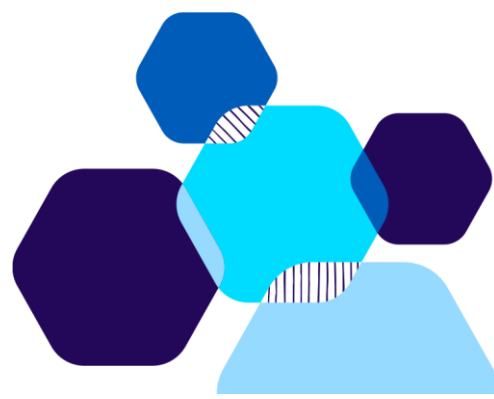
What could you do to solve those problems?

Share your plans in the Facebook community [in this post](#).

Teach it

Try it out and come back here to reflect on the experience. What did you learn?

Share your reflections in the Facebook community [in this post](#).



Your action plan

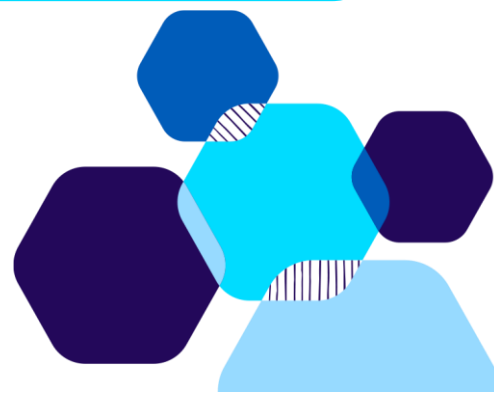
Make an action plan focused on applying learning from this the course. Complete any sentences that help you do this. Come back and reflect on what happened in class.

In the next two weeks, I am going to...

Over the next two months, I'm going to...

Before the end of the school year, I'm going to...

Next school year, I want to...



Well done — you’ve made it to the end of the course! We hope you’ve found it useful, and you’ll join us on another very soon.

Learn more about other free teacher training courses with the British Council at: <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/training>

Explore our framework for teacher knowledge and skills for inspiration, support and materials: <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/professional-development/teachers>

