

Suggested Listening Activities for Students

By Sharece M. Bunn

Though the Upstream textbooks have their own listening sections and listening materials, during my year at TNPU, I have come to realize that students appreciate a more practical and up-to-date approach to learning listening skills.

Both NPR and BBC have free podcasts that may be useful both to you as English speakers and academics and to your students. NPR podcasts are from NPR in the United States and BBC podcasts are courtesy of the BBC in the UK.

NPR podcasts: http://www.npr.org/rss/podcast/podcast_directory.php

BBC podcasts: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts>

Podcasts range from two to thirty minutes. I suggest picking NPR's Story of the Day and making four or five listening questions for students. Some stories are more interesting than others, but when you use current news stories with students, you open up conversation windows that otherwise will remain closed.

You can also download video podcasts from iTunes. Some video podcasts can be from reliable news sources. Sometimes, students enjoy listening to the video news more because they also have the chance to watch the native speakers present, which they most likely will not be able to do next year.

Suggested Listening Activities for Students

By Sharece M. Bunn

Though the Upstream textbooks have their own listening sections and listening materials, during my year at TNPU, I have come to realize that students appreciate a more practical and up-to-date approach to learning listening skills.

Both NPR and BBC have free podcasts that may be useful both to you as English speakers and academics and to your students. NPR podcasts are from NPR in the United States and BBC podcasts are courtesy of the BBC in the UK.

NPR podcasts: http://www.npr.org/rss/podcast/podcast_directory.php

BBC podcasts: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts>

Podcasts range from two to thirty minutes. I suggest picking NPR's Story of the Day and making four or five listening questions for students. Some stories are more interesting than others, but when you use current news stories with students, you open up conversation windows that otherwise will remain closed.

You can also download video podcasts from iTunes. Some video podcasts can be from reliable news sources. Sometimes, students enjoy listening to the video news more because they also have the chance to watch the native speakers present, which they most likely will not be able to do next year.