

Step – Useful online listening resources

Task 2

Below are four case studies of learners looking to improve their listening skills. Visit the four websites below and review the sites. Which one do you think each learner would benefit from? Why?

Case study 1

Antonio is a B2-level business manager who travels abroad a lot for work. He'd like to improve his listening skills so he can follow his colleagues' discussions better in meetings.

Case study 2

Katja is a five-year-old beginner learner. Her parents want her to listen to English outside the classroom so she has a lot of exposure to it, not just in her weekly lesson.

Case study 3

Rodrigo is a 14-year-old A2+ level learner who is taking English lessons to improve his grades at school. He finds it hard to hear individual words when he listens and he knows he needs to improve his listening skills, but he's not very motivated.

Case study 4

Lara is a B1-level adult learner who is really motivated to improve her listening skills. Unfortunately, she's a busy working parent so she doesn't have a lot of time. She'd like a resource with short recordings and quick tasks to complete so she can fit them into her busy life.

[CBeebies](#)

[TEDxESL](#)

[elllo - English Listening Lesson Library Online](#)

[LyricsTraining](#)

Task 2 Answers

These are suggested answers:

Case study 1 – TEDxESL provides clips of talks where people give their views on a variety of topics. This high-level authentic material could help Antonio to better follow different points of view. Elllo could also provide some useful opportunities for Antonio to listen to people talking about different topics and giving their opinions although the texts are quite short.

Case study 2 – Katja is likely to enjoy listening and singing along to the songs on the CBeebies sites. The other websites are not appropriate for a young child.

Case study 3 – Rodrigo might enjoy Lyricstraining as it'll give him practice in hearing individual words and he can choose the music he likes. It might be more motivating to a teenager than other listening sites although he might find some of the recordings on elllo interesting too.

Case study 4 – Lara could benefit from elllo as it provides hundreds of short audio or video clips with accompanying multiple-choice questions. She could regularly fit one into a busy schedule. It would also give her practice in listening to a variety of accents. She might also enjoy Lyricstraining but she's likely to find TEDxESL too difficult. She could watch videos where the transcript is available to help her follow what she hears.

Further useful listening resources:

[BBC Learning English](#) – lots of great materials here including Six Minute English. For lower intermediate, intermediate and upper intermediate levels.

[Channel One News](#) – daily news programme for young adults with a transcript.

[Big Think](#) – business people giving their views on a variety of topics. Authentic material.

[British Council short stories](#) – short story videos for younger learners.

[British Council LearnEnglish Teens](#) – videos and tasks for teenagers.

Edpuzzle – add a video from a site such as YouTube and then add questions during the video. Share it with your students who watch and have to answer the question when it appears. Free and paid for versions.

ESLvideo – videos with accompanying quizzes that have been created by teachers. Videos for children and adults and a variety of levels. You can add your own video from a site such as YouTube and add your own quiz for your students.