

3.4 Listening

Using radio to improve your English

Focus: *developing listening skills during your leisure time.*

1. Do you like listening to the radio? If so, what do you like to listen to? Below is a selection of 8 of the most popular radio stations in Ireland (but there may be good local radio stations where you live also). Search for the stations on a radio, and select a station you think you would like to listen to.



Spin 103.8
RTE Radio 1 ((88.2)
RTE 2 FM (90.4)
Today FM (100)
FM 104
Phantom 105.2
Newstalk 106-108
RTE Lyric FM (96)

2. Most of the radio stations above have podcasts. Being able to download a pod cast gives you a fantastic resource for improving your listening, and general English skills. Either select a podcast to listen to, **or** record a couple of minutes of people talking on radio.
3. Listen to the whole section once, to get a general idea of what they are talking about.
4. Listen again, pausing the recording, and write down everything you hear, word by word. (This is called writing a transcript). Write down when the person says things like ...um..., or when they start a sentence but don't finish it.
5. There may be parts that are just impossible to work out. If possible, ask a native speaker to help you (although they might not be able to work some of the words either!) Leave blanks if you have to.
6. Make a note of new words and new phrases that you hear in your vocabulary notebook or personal dictionary.
7. A few days later, listen to the same podcast/recording without pausing, to see just how much you are now able to understand straight away.
8. Repeat steps 2-7 on a regular basis. You can see how you are making progress by the percentage of the recording you manage to transcribe.