

# LISTENING SKILLS ENGLISH COURSE



# Introduction

## Listening Skills English Course!

Do you have difficulty understanding English? Listening is never easy because...

- ...the written forms of English are different to the spoken forms.
- ...many word combinations have different pronunciations.
- ...native speakers often connect word sounds.

But don't worry, we can help you with all this. In our **Listening Skills English Course** we'll teach you all about spoken English, which will really help you understand things. In this course, you'll learn how to...

- Understand the key words.
- Focus on the meaning rather than individual words.
- Form connected speech so you can recognize it more easily.

We do this through our professional materials, which include:

- Over 150 listening activities.
- Hundreds of practical exercises.
- Audio files with conversations, discussions and presentations.

By the end of this course, you'll be able to listen to English confidently! In turn, this will help you learn English much more easily and quickly!



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# Listening: connected speech!

Listening to English is difficult. But very often, the words aren't the problem. In fact, when English people speak, they use fairly basic language with a vocabulary of about 3,000 common words. One of the difficult things is related to connected speech. Very basically, connected speech occurs when a consonant sound is followed by a vowel sound, and the sounds merge. For example:

- had a = had\_a
- leave it = leave\_it
- work at = work\_at
- did it = did\_it
- does it = does\_it
- I took it to the shop = I took\_it to the shop.
- I get up at six = I get\_up at six. Ge tu pat
- She put on her shoes = She put\_on her shoes.

Good afternoon! = Good\_afternoon

If you understand this, and you can recognize it, it will help a lot with your listening skills.



## Exercises

How would you say these sentences with connected speech?

- Where is it?
- I can't find it.
- Where did you put it?
- There were a lot of people.
- What time did you wake up?
- You need to back up your work.
- How much did it cost?
- What does it mean?
- Leave it here.
- I worked at the weekend.
- I had a great time.
- He stopped to have a cup of coffee.
- We sent him the invitation.
- I'd like to leave at six.
- Don't forget to bring a coat!



## Dictation

Listen and write down the sentences you hear.

1. We saw a lot of people.
2. We arrived at six.
3. They sent him the invitation.
4. I forgot to take a coat.
5. He worked at the weekend.
6. How much did it cost?
7. She forgot to back up her work.
8. I can't find it anywhere.



# Listening activity: What do you have for lunch?

## 1 Pre-listening

You're going to listen to three people talking about what they have for lunch. Before doing that, see if you can make a sentence or two using any of the words below to describe what you have for lunch:

*restaurant, vegetarian dish, vegetables, meat, fish, pasta, spaghetti, a salad, soup, fast food, starter, main dish, dessert, coffee, hamburger, hot dog, a 3-course meal, fruit, sandwich, baked potato, chips, crisps, desk, work, park, canteen...*

**For example:** *During the week, I usually have a sandwich for lunch; at the weekend, I often go to a café or pub for lunch.*

## 2 Listening I

Listen to the audio file. After each person finishes speaking, give a quick summary of what you understood.

## 3 Listening II

Listen again and say whether the sentences are true or false.

### Speaker 1

1. Mike sometimes goes to a Mexican restaurant for lunch.
2. You can get a starter, main course and dessert for about £14.

### Speaker 2

3. One of Amy's favourite sandwiches is egg and bacon.
4. On Saturdays, she often has dinner at a restaurant.

### Speaker 3

5. Mike sometimes goes to a pub for lunch.
6. If the weather is nice, he might go to the park to have a sandwich.

## Audio exercise

Say these extracts from the audio file with connected speech. The first one has quite a few!

1. I work in an office in the centre.
2. I get a quick lunch in one of the pubs near here.
3. I might go to the park to have a sandwich.

## 4 Script analysis

Now, read over the script and identify any features of spontaneous conversation.

Finally, listen and read the script at the same time. This is great for developing your listening skills.



### AUDIO SCRIPT

Mike, Manchester (England)

I eat at my desk most days. There's a canteen where I work, but I don't like the food there, so I bring in a lunch box with some salad or pasta. For a couple of days a week, I go to a Chinese or Indian restaurant. You can get a starter, main course and dessert for about £14, which is really good.

Amy, Edinburgh (Scotland)

I work in an accounting company, and we're really busy, so I usually only have time for a sandwich or a salad for lunch. My favourite sandwiches are ham and tomato, or smoked salmon and cream cheese. On Sundays, I often go to a restaurant for brunch, to have some Eggs Benedict or French toast, which I love!

Pete, Bristol (England)

I work in an office in the centre. If I've got a bit of time, I get a quick lunch in one of the pubs near here. My favourite dishes in the pub are sausages and mashed potato, or pie and chips. Other times, and if the weather is nice, I might go to the park to have a sandwich with a packet of crisps and a soft drink to go with it.



# Speaking – role play: what do you have for lunch?

Do this speaking activity in pairs.



## Student 1 – The interviewer

You're an interviewer for a local TV station. Interview people about what they have for lunch. Use the questions below or any others.

**Start:** *Hi, I'm (Jenny Brooks) from AT5 TV. Do you mind if I ask you a couple of questions?*

### Some useful language but improvise where possible:

- Where do you have lunch during the week?
- What do you usually have for lunch?
- How long is your lunch break?
- Which restaurants do you eat at during the week? Why?
- What food to take away do you get during the week? Why?
- What are some of your favourite lunchtime dishes?
- Have you ever had a business lunch? What did you have?
- What do you have if you want something quick for lunch?
- What light lunches do you like?
- What do you never eat for lunch?
- What do you usually drink with your lunch?
- What do you have for lunch at the weekend?
- Which restaurants do you go to for lunch at the weekend? Why?
- Have you ever had a brunch? What did you have?

## Student 2 – The interviewee

You're in the street when someone asks to interview you about what you have for lunch. Answer the questions and give as much information as you can. Use the expressions below or any others. Change any information in brackets ( ).

### Some useful language but improvise where possible:

- I usually have my lunch (at the office).
- Sometimes, if the weather is nice, I go to the park to have lunch.
- I sometimes eat at the work canteen.
- My lunch break is usually about (one hour).
- I usually have a (sandwich and some crisps) for lunch.
- I sometimes go to an (Italian) restaurant close to the office.
- I often get (a kebab) to take away for lunch.
- I once had a business lunch in a (5-star hotel restaurant).
- If I want something quick for lunch, I'll get a (sandwich).
- I try to avoid (fatty food or desserts) for lunch as it makes me sleepy.
- I usually drink (water) with my lunch. Sometimes, I might have some (wine).
- I usually have (some lasagna or spaghetti) for lunch at the weekend.
- We often go to an (American restaurant) for lunch at the weekend.
- I once had a brunch in a restaurant in the centre. I had (eggs Benedict).