

Useful Resources for Strengthening English Listening & Conversation Skills



The resources included below offer opportunities for strengthening English listening and conversation skills. The audio and video recordings provided by the resources are often accompanied by transcripts.

International Conversation Café gatherings

Members of the Duke community are welcome to join in these English conversation gatherings sponsored by the Thompson Writing Program. Weekly gatherings are typically held during the fall and spring semesters. For more information, contact Rene Caputo at r.caputo@duke.edu.

National Public Radio

National Public Radio (NPR) provides a wealth of opportunities to listen to spoken English.

Morning Edition program

https://www.npr.org/programs/morning-edition/

This Morning Edition page shares audio of news stories, often with transcripts provided. To access individual stories for programs of previous dates, click on the **Morning Edition for [date]**. Below a story's title, you'll find the play button (on the left) and transcript link (on the far right).

All Things Considered program

http://www.npr.org/programs/all-things-considered/

This program features short news stories. If you're accessing stories from the same day they were broadcast, the audio and transcript will likely not be available yet. For earlier stories, click on the title to access the play button (on the left) and transcript (on the far right). Below the play button, you'll typically see a short summary and/or the transcript.

TED Talks

TED video presentations

https://www.ted.com/talks

You can search this collection of presentations by topic, language, and length. Each presentation provides a video recording and a transcript as well as the option of having subtitles.

Duke Writing Studio 2

British Council

Audio modules to strengthen listening skills

https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/skills/listening/advanced-c1

The British Council offers advanced English listening modules covering a variety of topics, which currently include a job interview, a management meeting, and business innovation. Each unit includes an audio recording of about three to six minutes as well as a transcript and related exercises.

The right side of the webpage provides links to additional British Council modules.