

This handout directs you to websites offering a variety of listening opportunities, many of which are accompanied by transcripts. In the National Public Radio and ELLLO sections below, some links lead specifically to interviews, providing you with conversational material to listen to. Take advantage of these resources to polish your listening and conversational skills.

And join in the International Conversation Café gatherings sponsored by the Thompson Writing Program and Writing Studio, which you can read about here: <http://twp.duke.edu/twp-writing-studio>.

### **National Public Radio**

<http://www.npr.org>

National Public Radio provides a wealth of opportunities to hear spoken English on a variety of topics, with transcripts posted for some stories, including many in the programs below.

#### **Fresh Air program**

<http://www.npr.org/programs/fresh-air/>

This program features interviews for you to listen to. Scroll down, then click on the words **Fresh Air for date**, and click on a title. You will then see the play button and (for many of the stories) a transcript.

#### **All Things Considered program**

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

This program features short news stories. Click on the **title** of the story to see the play button and transcript link appear on the left. Note that if you choose to read the text below the title, you will sometimes be reading a story about the audio while at other times an actual transcript.

### **Randall's ESL Cyber Listening Lab**

<http://www.esl-lab.com/>

The multimedia activities here are rated as easy, medium, and difficult. While the academic listening materials are more formal, other materials sometimes feature speakers using idiomatic phrases, informal language, and reduced speech (“whaddya wanna” for “what do you want to”).

To explore the site, open this piece about Bamboo Artifacts. Do the pre-listening exercise and read the Idioms on the left column. Then, listen to the video and answer the questions. A link to the script appears at the top of the page. <http://www.esl-lab.com/culture/culrd1.htm>

## Breaking News English

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/>

This site offers listening exercises based on current news stories. From the main page, pick the news topic you are interested in and click on one of the levels offered. Then, click under Listen to choose the audio speed. Look elsewhere on the page for the transcript and related exercises. **Note:** The speaker for these news stories is often British.

## ELLLO (English Language Listening Lab Online)

ELLLO offers multimedia resources for improving English listening skills. The site includes interviews, news reports, and more. Participants are from various countries and thus speak using a variety of accents.

- Interviews <http://www.elllo.org/english/About/Interviews.htm>
- Audio clips <http://www.elllo.org/english/TakeTwo.htm>
- Video clips <http://www.elllo.org/english/video.htm>
- Situations <http://www.elllo.org/english/Situations.htm>
- News stories <http://www.elllo.org/english/NewCenter.htm>
- Short talks <http://www.elllo.org/english/Points.htm>
- Podcasts <http://www.elllo.org/english/Podcast.htm>

Try listening to this piece on American cities:

<http://www.elllo.org/english/Points/PT06-Cities.html>

Click on the Introduction to listen to that. Scroll down to read the transcript.

Or listen to this talk about possibly becoming a lawyer. Scroll down for the transcript.

<http://www.elllo.org/video/1101/V1113-Law.htm>