



How to use podcasts in language learning

Podcasts offer the great opportunity to provide students of a foreign language with a lot of easily produced, cost-free audio material. The effect: Your students listen to and learn to copy English pronunciation. It also enables your students to improve their pronunciation by producing podcasts themselves, which is fun and therefore lessens their constant fear of mispronunciation.

- You can either produce audio files with declarative knowledge on a certain topic. For instance you want to give an overview on the content of the book you are currently reading with your class? Tell them via audio file.
- Or you can produce audio files and leave silent moments for the students to repeat certain sentences you want them to learn concerning pronunciation.
- Another great possibility is to provide your students with pictures of difficult terms and add an audio file in a website or a power point presentation for instance.
- But the most creative way is possibly to let your students produce their own podcasts. One possibility is to give them the authentic situated task to produce a radio report for a broadcasting company on whatever topic you find suitable. Another possibility is to do a podcast contest as a project on book presentations, or as project on the environmental problems in your region, or on trends in art and music, and so on.
- Use the Audacity programme and have a look at the pdf which describes how to create podcasts using this freeware.

Readymade educational podcasts are provided by:

<http://www.epnweb.org/> (The Education Podcast Network)

<http://www.digitalpodcast.com/browse-educational-20-1.html>

<http://recap.ltd.uk/podcasting/> (Podcasts for educators, schools, and colleges)

<http://www.apple.com/itunes/overview/> (Apple free educational podcasts)

<http://www.podcasting-station.com/showrss.php?category=Educational%20Podcasts>

<http://www.manythings.org/repeat/> (special grammar podcasts)

<http://iteslj.org/links/ESL/Listening/Podcasts/> (brilliant British language learning podcasts)

or use the podcast search engine by yahoo: <http://podcasts.yahoo.com/>