



The Listening Business

Are you listening..?



...really listening?

www.thelisteningbusiness.com

Welcome to The Listening Business!

I specialise in providing ready-made authentic listening materials for the English Language Teaching classroom.

As an experienced ELT professional and linguist, with a special interest in authentic listening and language acquisition, I set up **The Listening Business** with the aim of helping teachers to use authentic listening materials in class. I know from my own teaching experience how quickly students can make progress when exposed to authentic listening texts which are accompanied by suitable and varied tasks. And yet I am also aware that most teachers are simply too busy, or might not have the experience, to prepare labour-intensive authentic listening tasks.

This is where I come in! I work with unadapted news and business programmes from BBC Radio 4 and the BBC World Service, and my materials are carefully written to suit classroom use, self-access or directed learning. Full information about the programmes, my rationale and the services I provide are in this leaflet.

THE LISTENING BUSINESS has been used to high acclaim for over 10 years by language schools, FE colleges, universities and companies throughout the UK and Europe. I hope you'll tune in with me, and start really listening with your students soon.

Best wishes

Sheila Thorn



What are the aims of the The Listening Business materials?

Focusing on listening training (not testing)

The main focus of these authentic listening materials is to train students to listen more effectively to those features of spoken English which they find so challenging. One of the things students find most difficult, for example, is dividing a stream of speech into individual words. These exercises train them to deal with features such as assimilation (the blurring of words at their boundaries), linking (where the end of one word runs into the start of another) and elision (where sounds are missed out in rapid speech). There is also a strong focus on phoneme discrimination – training students to distinguish the specific sounds of English which can prove problematic: hurt/heard, think/sink, here/ear and so on.

Increasing motivation and confidence

Many students have never encountered 100% authentic listening materials before and they are delighted to find that, with well-constructed tasks, they can actually listen to and understand authentic speech. This boosts their confidence in their listening skills.

Providing an opportunity for language learning

Useful lexis and grammatical structures occur frequently and naturally in context in both the BBC Radio 4 News and BBC World Business Report. These programmes therefore enable students to acquire an enormous amount of language, (from a lexical, grammatical and phonological perspective), with the most useful language items naturally occurring the most frequently.

Helping students learn about life in the UK and world events

The teacher can use items in the BBC news to compare life in the UK with life in the students' own countries, leading to genuine exchanges of information between students and useful class discussions, where students can practise the lexis and grammatical structures they have learned from listening to the news.

Preparing students for exams

The listening materials also contain comprehension tasks which are invaluable in preparing students for Cambridge ESOL exams including KET, PET, FCE, CAE, CPE, BEC and IELTS and the TOEFL exam.

“We have been using Sheila Thorn’s excellent service with a wide cross-section of our students for nine years now. Sheila is utterly reliable and provides eminently useable, reasonably-priced, listening materials which can be used either for classroom activities or as stand-alone self-access materials. This is an excellent resource and you should not be without it!” *Jane Magee, St Andrews University*



The Listening Business

BBC Radio 4 News

UK
customers
only

The listening clips

BBC Radio 4 News: Mon – Thurs 10.00am (2 minute programme)

What we offer

Every week on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays – for 45 weeks a year – The Listening Business produces 6 pages of intensive listening exercise worksheets and answersheets to accompany the programme. These are emailed to you by 1pm at the very latest the same day! This means that you and your students can use the day's news that very afternoon, and the stories can be followed up in the next day's newspapers.

The levels

The worksheets are at 3 levels: ELEMENTARY, INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED

Where do I get the listening clips?

You can record the 10am bulletins live onto a cassette using a radio/cassette player (92 to 94 FM or 109 Long Wave) or put them onto a CD or MP3 player after recording the programme from the BBC website. You can also burn a CD after recording the programme from the BBC website. Alternatively, we can send a CD containing one or more of the bulletins for a nominal extra charge.

What are the exercise types in the worksheets?

There are many different types, including corrections, questions, true/false, gap-fill and transformations. The exercises are on rotation, so that a class which only has lessons one day a week will be exposed to a variety of exercise types. Each exercise consists of around 25 items and comprehensive answersheets are provided.

What about copyright?

This BBC Radio 4 News service is available in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and can only be supplied to institutions which have an ERA licence (i.e. a licence to use BBC broadcasts for educational purposes). This is obtained from the Educational Recording Agency at www.era.org.uk (In practice all institutions which are members of English UK and all FE colleges and universities have this licence anyway).

BBC World Business News

Available
worldwide

The listening clips

BBC World Business News: Mondays at 11.20am UK time (10 minute programme)

What we offer

Once a week, The Listening Business produces 4 to 5 pages of listening exercises to accompany this programme, with comprehensive answersheets and a full transcript of all the interviews and in-depth reports. These are emailed to you by 10am (UK time) the following day, i.e. just 24 hours after transmission!

The level

INTERMEDIATE level and above

Where do I get the listening clips?

The programme is available for seven days after transmission from the BBC website. You can also burn a CD after recording the programme from the BBC website. Alternatively, we can send a CD of the programme for a nominal extra fee.

What are the exercise types in the worksheets?

We provide a variety of exercises, including corrections, questions, true/false, gap-fill and sentence completion.

I'm listening...tell me more!

The BBC World Business News is ideal for training students to improve their listening skills, whether they are already in business or considering working in business. Each programme contains the latest headlines from the world of business and finance, together with market information, in-depth reports and interviews. The interviews are often with non-native English speakers which expose students to the various accents they are likely to encounter in their work. For classroom use, self-access or directed learning, our materials help the students focus on the phonology of spoken English, and provide them with the opportunity to learn useful new lexical and grammatical items from hearing and seeing them in context.



“An excellent service and a first-class product - I would think that all higher education institutions that teach Business English could profitably invest in Sheila's fast and efficient service.”

Professor John Bennett, St Gallen University, Switzerland



How do we order? What does it cost?

Contact us direct at the address below, and confirm which service(s) you would like (see order codes) and for how many weeks, and we'll email your worksheets on a regular basis. It's as simple as that!

The prices are as follows, and you can pay by cheque or bank transfer:

Members of ENGLISH UK and BALEAP receive an extra 10% off these prices!

**UK
customers
only**

BBC Radio 4 News

Classroom listening materials based on 2 minute news bulletins, broadcast at 10.00am on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays

Price per week 1 – 4 WEEKS	Price per week 5 WEEKS OR MORE	DAYS	
£14.00	£11.00	all 4 days	Order Code: LB1
£10.00	£8.00	any 2 days of broadcasts	Order Code: LB2
£7.00	£6.00	any 1 broadcast	Order Code: LB3

add £4.00 per week post & packing if you would like us to send you the CD

SAVE OVER 20% WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE TO 5 WEEKS OR MORE!

BBC World Business News

Classroom listening materials based on this 10 minute news programme, broadcast at 11.20am on Mondays.

Price per week 1 – 4 WEEKS	Price per week 5 WEEKS OR MORE	
£14.00	£11.00	Order Code: LB4

add £4.00 per week post & packing if you would like us to send you the CD

SAVE OVER 20% WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE TO 5 WEEKS OR MORE!

**Available
worldwide**

COMBINATION OFFER!

Why not take advantage of our COMBINATION OFFER and have BOTH SERVICES for more savings!

BBC Radio 4 News and BBC World Business News

Price per week 1 – 4 WEEKS	Price per week 5 WEEKS OR MORE	DAYS	
£25.00	£20.00	all 4 days of BBC Radio 4 News + BBC World Business News	Order Code: LB5
£21.00	£17.00	any 2 days of BBC Radio 4 News + BBC World Business News	Order Code: LB6
£19.00	£15.00	any 1 day of BBC Radio 4 News + BBC World Business News	Order Code: LB7

add £4.00 per week post & packing if you would like us to send you the CD

**UK
customers
only**

2 WEEKS FREE TRIAL! If you're still not sure, you can try out any of the above services FREE for 2 weeks!

Order from: sheila@thelisteningbusiness.com Tel +44 (0)20 8521 8309

*This LISTENING BUSINESS service is only available to institutions in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland which have an ERA licence. (www.era.org.uk)

"I just wanted to let you know how much my intermediate students enjoy using the BBC Radio 4 News. The students find it very rewarding to deal with authentic texts in this way and to be aware of their listening skills improving. We are big fans. It's a great service. Thank you very much."
Carol Butters, Stevenson College, Edinburgh

"What can I say? These materials are brilliant! They are an invaluable resource."
Elizabeth Bray, Coventry College

"In the space of five weeks, the students went from being totally flummoxed to being able to predict content and vocabulary with accuracy. These ready-made materials are a gift for busy teachers."
Mary Ghali, Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham