

Level: B1
Activity: Authentic listening
Length: 3 mins 10 secs
Focus: Chat on the radio

LISTENERS CLUB

In this lesson, students listen to Alison (American) and Frank (English) introducing the *Listeners Club*, a ten minute slot in which they read letters from radio hobbyists who have written in about their listening experiences. A summary of the programme is given in the *Preparing to Listen Section* of the lesson notes.

The audio is divided into six short sections. The key activities are:

- finding out about the programme – exs 1,2
- tuning in to the speaker's voices – ex 3
- following the meaning of pronouns – ex 4
- predicting aspects of the text – ex 5
- listening for specific information – ex 6
- recognising how words are joined together in fast speech – ex 7
- understanding key words and phrases – exs 9, 10, 12
- following the general idea (gist) – ex 13

The final section (*Thinking about Listening*), gives students the opportunity to review strategies and to listen to the complete text again. Students should end the lesson feeling confident that they have understood most of the text, and can download the podcast for extra listening practice outside class.

Read the questions and options to check your students will understand the language on the page before you teach the lesson. You don't need to pre-teach vocabulary - guessing meaning is integral to the listening activities. Check vocabulary after students have referred to the different sections of the audio script.

Remember to make sure students will be able to see the audio script at different points during the lesson.

Optional extra language focus: after ex 11, review the use of 'used to'
Check out level B2 for a more challenging version of this lesson.

Answer key:

- 1 1 F 2 DS 3 T
 2 a programming b control c studio d microphone
 3 sound controls; studios; programming
 4 I - Alison; we – Alison, Concha, Frank; your – the listeners; our – the radio station
 5 students' own answers
 6 1 Saturday 2 202 3 28080 4 english
 8 snail mail
 9 1 T 2 T 3 F 4 T 5 T
 10 1 b 2 b 3 b
 11 students' own answers
 12 1 Russia 2 Andy 3 Dear Ladies and Gentlemen 4 Moscow 5 to learn what's happening in different parts of the world; to get to know other cultures and traditions; to practise English
 13 2
 14-16 students' own answers

LISTENERS CLUB

1.

Hello. I'm Alison Hughes with Concha Muñoz at the sound controls and Frank Smith who's come down to the studios once again, and we're back with the Listeners Club, a ten minute spot in which we answer your letters and provide some information on our programming.

2.

Listeners Club is broadcast every Tuesday and repeated every Saturday, and for those of you who don't already know, our snail mail address is Radio Exterior de España, PO Box 156202 Madrid, 28080 Spain, and our email address is English at RTVE dot ES.

3.

and repeated every Saturday X3
two eight oh eight oh X3
email address is English at X3

4.

Well, this really will be a session of er lis listeners letters and answering them but first I want to repeat our thanks 'cause we really have received many well wishes from a lot of listeners. Thanks from Frank, Justin Concha, and Micky and myself for all your support and well wishes for our 70th anniversary. We hope to be celebrating it all year, and we hope also to celebrate it with you again in another two years when the English Language Service really does reach it's 70th year, now being only a mere 68. And, we'll start with a bunch of letters that we received via snail mail, that is the slow er post, the standard post that used to be the excitement of waiting three weeks to get a letter.

5.

Frank: It still is. I mean I still think getting a letter is one of the nicest things that can happen to you.

Alison: It's so exciting, and you open open the envelope, you have to break something

Frank: Yeah

Alison: To get to it. Now, I used to live er walking up and you know, going down to the portera, the woman who controlled the the mail that came in every day, you know, has anything come. It was ...

Frank: That's obviously, when you were in love with someone that lived far away.

Alison: Well, I, I, lived far away from many people

Frank: Or maybe

Alison: from many people I loved (laughs)

Frank: Or maybe you were waiting for a cheque from the bank.

Alison: Oh, I wish. I wish. I've never waited for a cheque from the bank.

6.

Alison: Well, let's begin with a letter from snail mail, one of these lovely letters, and this one comes from a listener from Moscow, Russia, Andy Martiniuk,

Frank : Well. Mr Martiniuk is very formal, he starts his letter Dear Ladies and gentlemen. Lovely touch that. My name is Andy Martiniuk. I am a shortwave listener, radio hobbyist, from Moscow, Russia and er, and he says, I loved to learn what's happening in different parts of the world. I'm fond of getting to know the other cultures and traditions and I'm eager to practice English. That's why i enjoy listening to programmes from all over the world, all also I collect the verifications ...

7. = complete podcast

LISTENERS CLUB

A PREPARING TO LISTEN

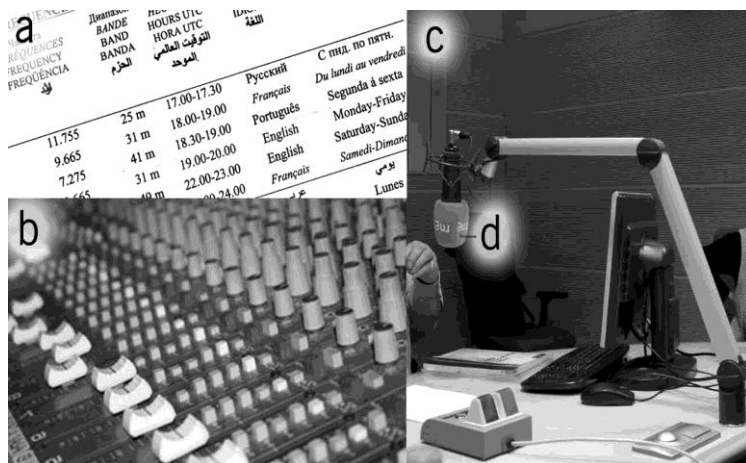
1. You are going to listen to part of the English Language Broadcast of Radio Exterior de España called *Listeners Club*. Read the information about the programme and write T (*true*), F (*false*) or DS (*doesn't say*) next to sentences 1-3.

The English Language Broadcast of the Spanish National Radio has daily broadcasts about events in Spain and how the Spanish see world events. Some programmes are broadcast again at the weekend. At the beginning of this programme, Alison and Frank provide information about the programme and explain how to contact the radio station. They tell us that it's the station's 70th anniversary; they talk about receiving letters, and then read a letter from a listener.

1. You can only listen to the English programmes at the weekend.
2. The broadcasters are both American.
3. The radio station is 70 years old.

2. Look at the pictures. Match the letters a-d with the words.

studio control programming microphone



B TUNING IN

3. **Audio 1** Listen to the beginning of the programme. Put these words and phrases in the order you hear them.

studios programming sound controls

4. Listen again and read what Alison says at the beginning of the programme. Who or what do you think the following pronouns refer to?

I we your our

Hello. I'm Alison Hughes with Concha Muñoz at the sound controls and Frank Smith who's come down to the studios once again, and we're back with the Listeners Club, a ten minute spot in which we answer your letters and provide some information on our programming.

5. What do you expect to hear on the rest of the programme? Put a tick (✓), cross (x) or question mark (?) after each one. Add your own idea.

1. music
2. presenters speaking at the same time
3. foreign names
4. numbers
5. your idea ...

C LISTENING FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION

6. **Audio 2** Listen to the next part of the programme and complete the information sheet about *Listeners Corner*.

Listeners Corner

Broadcasted: Tuesday, ¹

Postal Address: Radio Exterior de España,
PO Box 156 ²,
³,
Spain

Email address: ⁴@rtve.es

7. **Audio 3** Listen to these phrases. You will hear each one three times. Notice how some of the words are joined together. Find the phrases in the audio script and underline them. Check your answers to exercise 6.

1. and repea di devri **Saturday**
2. **two** wei doh **ei** dohs **pain**
3. **emay** laddre siz **Engli** shat

8. Read the phrases 1-3 below and use your dictionary, if necessary, to help you understand them. Can you remember which one Alison uses to refer to the radio postal address? Check in the script for **Audio 2**.

1. snail mail 2. standard post 3. recorded delivery

D LISTENING FOR DETAIL

9. **Audio 4** In the next part of the programme, Alison talks about Radio Exterior. Listen and write T (*true*) or F (*false*) after the sentences 1-5. Listen again and check.

1. Alison says they have received many letters recently.
2. Alison says thank you from the people who work on the programme.
3. The radio station is 68 years old.
4. They'll be celebrating station's birthday all year.
5. Alison thinks that getting letters by post is exciting.

10. **Audio 5** In the next part of the programme, Frank and Alison talk about receiving letters in the post. Listen and choose the best answer a-c to answer questions 1-3.

1. How does Frank feel about getting letters?
 - a. It's fun.
 - b. It's a nice thing.
 - c. It's a problem.
2. Does Alison agree with him?
 - a. Not at all.
 - b. Yes.
 - c. A little bit.
3. What two reasons does Frank give for Alison being excited about receiving letters?
 - a. She was in love or lived far from home.
 - b. She lived far from home or was waiting for money from the bank.
 - c. She was in love or waiting for money from the bank.

11. Listen again to **Audio 5**. Who do you think Alison was waiting for letters from? Why?

12. **Audio 6** Listen to the next part of the programme and answer questions 1- 5.

1. Which country does the letter come from?
2. What's the first name of the writer?
3. How does he start his letter?
4. Which city does he live in?
5. Give one reason why he listens to the English Language Broadcast.

13. Listen again. Which sentence **best** summarises what Frank says?

1. The letter is too formal, but the listener likes the programme.
2. The letter is lovely because of its formality, and the listener likes the programme.

E THINKING ABOUT LISTENING

14. Which activities helped you understand the programme?

1. Thinking about the topic before listening.
2. Thinking about what you will hear.
3. Listening for pronouns to follow ideas.
4. Focussing on key words and phrases.

15. **Audio 7** Listen again to the whole recording. Was the programme easy or difficult for you to understand? Did you get most of the questions right?

16. Do you listen to local radio stations in English? Why? Why not?

If you want to listen to more programmes from the English Language Service of Radio Exterior, go to www.rtve.es/podcasts/radio-exterior/emisiones-ingles