

Making Listening Memorable:

LISTENING IN CHUNKS



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Outline

A little bit about ...

- **listening**
- **language**
- **classroom practice**
- **how to make listening memorable**

A little bit about listening

Name that tune ...

We are the champions – Queen

YMCA – Village People

The Final Countdown – Europe

Brown Eyed Girl – Van Morrison

At the Car Wash – Rose Royce

Brown Girl in the Ring – Bony M

Karma Chameleon – Boy George

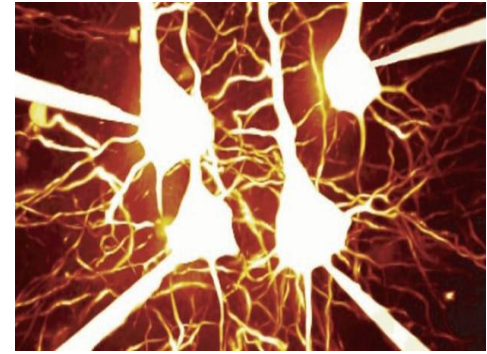
Doctor Doctor – The Thompson Twins

Pressure – David Bowie ...



BBC Magazine 2012

**What have they all
got in common?**



Earworms

Rhythm

Verbal stickiness

A little bit about language

Making Listening Memorable:

Listening in chunks



When it comes to ‘doing’ listening, many students feel they are starting from scratch rather than building on what they have already mastered. In this workshop, we’ll discuss the notion of ‘verbal stickiness’, and consider how we could exploit this phenomenon by focussing on various language patterns and using different activities to help students become more efficient and fluent listeners.

A little bit about classroom practice

Top-down and bottom-up (1)



- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| 1 I must have about | 100% |
| 2 through it all the time and I think | 66% |
| 3 I don't even speak to you | 33% |
| 4 They can see anything | 0% |
| 5 If you don't know 500 of them, you | |

Top-down and bottom-up (2)



- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| 1 I must have about | 100% |
| 2 through it all the time and I think | 66% |
| 3 I don't even speak to you | |
| 4 They can see anything | 33% |
| 5 If you don't know 500 of them, you | 0% |

**A little bit about how we can
make listening memorable**

Activity 1

Acoustic drilling



You are going to listen to 6 phrases. You will hear each one three times.

The phrases have been written as they sound. What do you think the written form of what speaker said is?

Compare with a partner and listen and check.

Acoustic drilling



1. sail does far
sailed as far
2. lep me juss get this
let me just get this
3. they look tut thee ya
they looked at the er ...
4. which wa zabada thousand
which was about a thousand
5. all over the wood
all over the world
6. mice fum new kay an Norway
mice from the UK and Norway

Activity 2

Using audio concordances

You will hear 12 snippets or short bits of spoken text (spoken by different speakers).

There's one word that's the same in each snippet.

What is it?

audio concordances

tell us a **little bit** about, about their intelligence

tell me a **bit** about universities in your country

develop a **little bit** of a

tell me a **little bit** more about

could you tell me a **little bit** about that

to tell us a **little bit** more

stick out a **little bit**

in England at the moment, this is a **bit** of a, a big issue

can you tell us a **little bit** about that?

you can tell me a **little bit** more about it in a minute

tell me a **little bit** about

in a **little bit** of a cart thing

'a little bit about'

739 pronunciations of 'a little bit about' in British English (2 out of 739):

Site name

chunk

accents

no. of examples

speed

16

The screenshot shows the YouGlish website interface. At the top, the browser address bar displays the URL: <https://youglish.com/search/a%20little%20bit%20about/uk>. The YouGlish logo is in the top left. Below it, a search bar contains the text 'a little bit about' and a red button labeled 'Say it!'. To the right of the search bar are tabs for 'ALL', 'US', 'UK', and 'AUS', with 'UK' selected. Below the tabs are buttons for 'AdChoices', 'Listening English', 'English Speaking', and 'English Spoken'. The main content area shows a video player with a man speaking. The video player has a progress bar at the bottom showing '0:06 / 25:44' and a speed control set to 'normal'. To the right of the video player is a sidebar with a list of search results, including 'Compare Pension Annuity' and 'Pension Pot of +£30K?'. A blue arrow points from the video player to the sidebar. The page is annotated with five callouts: 'Site name' pointing to the YouGlish logo, 'chunk' pointing to the search bar, 'accents' pointing to the 'UK' tab, 'no. of examples' pointing to the video player, and 'speed' pointing to the speed control. The number '16' is in the bottom right corner.

https://youglish.com

The screenshot shows the Youglish website interface. At the top, the URL bar displays 'https://youglish.com/search/a%20little%20bit%20about/uk'. Below the address bar, there's a search bar with the text 'So, I'm gonna talk to you a little bit about'. The words 'a little bit' are highlighted in yellow. Below the search bar, there are playback controls: a large green play button, a smaller green play button, a blue refresh button, a blue play button, and a large green stop button. Below the playback controls, there's a G Suite advertisement with the text 'Get started now' and a blue arrow button. Below the advertisement, there's a section titled 'Tips to improve English pronunciation:' with a list of four tips. A blue callout bubble points to the word 'a' in the search bar, and another blue callout bubble points to the word 'a' in the list of tips. The bottom of the page shows a Windows taskbar with various application icons and the system clock.

739 pronunciations of 'a little bit about'

Speed: **normal** [slower, faster] [Toggle UI]

So, I'm gonna talk to you **a little bit about**

[Feedback] [Share] [Save]

⏮ ⏪ ⏩ ⏭

G Suite
Get started now
G Suite grows with you and your business. Add new employees, extensions and much more.

Tips to improve English pronunciation:

Here are 4 tips that should help you perfect your pronunciation of 'a little bit about':

- **Break 'a little bit about' down into sounds:** say it out loud and exaggerate the sounds until you can consistently produce them.
- **Record yourself** saying 'a little bit about' in full sentences, then watch yourself and listen. You'll be able to mark your mistakes quite easily.
- **Look up tutorials on Youtube** on how to pronounce 'a little bit about'.
- **Focus on one accent:** mixing multiple accents can get really confusing especially for beginners, so pick one accent (US or UK) and stick to it.

To further improve English pronunciation, we suggest you do the following:

- **work on word/sentence reduction:** in some countries, reducing words and sentences can be seen as informal but in the United States, it's completely normal and part of everyday conversation (eg: what are you going to do this week end → what you gonna do this week end). Click **gonna** and **wanna** for more examples.
- **work on your intonation:** stress, rhythm and intonation patterns are not easy to master in English but they are

audioscript

pron tips

17

09:45
09/10/2017

Activity 3

Chunk drilling

I know a little bit about kittens ...

bit about

little bit about

know a little bit about

I know a little bit about kittens ...

and then ...

I know a little bit about kittens rap

I know a little bit
about kittens
I got bitten by a kitten
last year
A certain little kitten
in Britain
I've not forgotten
that it bit me on the ear



Useful resources

- mp3cut.net (free online app which can be used to cut audio tracks, and then save to your hard drive)
- PlayPhrase.me (browser to find video clips containing phrases embedded in film)
- www.audacityteam.org (free online audio editor and recorder)
- <https://youglish.com> (make your own audio concordances)
- Pronpack 4 Pronunciation Poems by Mark Hancock
- www.hancockmcdonald.com slides for talk

**Making Listening
Memorable:**

LISTENING IN CHUNKS



**and no longer starting
from scratch**



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Thankyou!!

