

## Who is this for?

This leaflet is for anyone who wants to understand TV, radio or Internet broadcasts of news reports better.

## The aim of this leaflet

The aim of this leaflet is to give you suggestions about what you can do to support your news listening. These include what you can do before, during and after listening. It also tells you about materials available in or accessible from the Language Commons, your own TV, radio or Internet-connected computer that can help you develop useful listening skills and build up your knowledge of words that are commonly used in the news.

## TV and Radio stations in Hong Kong

### TVB Pearl

This **TV station** is available everywhere in Hong Kong

*Programs most recommended for learners of English include the main evening news, Hong Kong Connection, Money Magazine and The Pearl Report.*

### RTHK Radio 3

Live broadcasts of HK **radio** programs in English can be found on a conventional radio at 567 MW or 97.9 and 107.8 FM in most parts of Hong Kong. Alternatively, audio files can be sent as a continuous stream to your PC from <http://program.rthk.hk/channel/radio/index.php?c=radio3> or you can download them and listen to them in your own time and at your own pace.

*In addition to various documentary series and special programs (mainly at weekends), programs most recommended for learners of English include Teen Time, Letter to Hong Kong, Reflections from Asia and Hong Kong Today. A full downloadable archive of programs can be found at <http://programme.rthk.hk/channel/radio/index.php?c=radio3&m=archive>*

### RTHK Radio 6

*See below*

## TV and radio stations outside Hong Kong

### BBC (UK)

Live broadcasts of **BBC radio** programs in English can be found either on a conventional radio at 675 MW (in Hong Kong this is sometimes called **Radio 6**) or you can download a number of podcasts from their website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/worldserviceradio>. With the latter option, you can download news and programs on your phone or computer to listen to at your own time.

A program of world news can be heard every hour, and **The World Today / Newshour** – an hour of current affairs – at 12pm and 9pm every weekday.

**BBC World TV** is available on the cable channel 5 in the Language Commons – select 75

*A program of world news can be heard every hour. In addition, programs most recommended for learners of English which are broadcast when the Language Commons is open include Asia Today and The World Today.*

### CNN International (USA)

This **TV station** is available on the cable channel 5 in the Language Commons – select 74

*In addition to the news stories the programs **most recommended** for learners of English which are broadcast when the Language Commons is open include the news, any programs including the word **World, Talk Asia and BackStory.***

#### **CNBC Asia (Singapore)**

This **TV station** is available on the cable channel 5 in the Language Commons – select 78.

*Programs **most recommended** for learners of English which are broadcast when the Language Commons is open include the **The Call (Asia) and Squawk Box (Asia).***

- **Internet listening resources (archived news broadcasts and current affairs programs)**

#### **RTHK Radio 3 (Hong Kong)**

The easiest way to listen to Radio 3 is from the RTHK website at <http://program.rthk.hk/channel/radio/index.php?c=radio3> There you can listen to the radio programs as they're being aired live, or listen - at any time - to all the hourly news broadcasts in the past 12 months, to the

archived audio news program Hong Kong Today or the weekly Letter to Hong Kong (both with transcripts) or to more than 80 other programs.

#### **PBS Online (USA)**

America's Public Broadcast Service Online NewsHour. Today's and yesterday's news and interviews with Jim Lehrer are available – usually with **transcripts** – in archives are searchable back to 2009. PBS provides **audio** mainly about American politics, but features interviews, so you get used to more conversational-type English as well as 'newsreader' English, and you can search for stories on certain topics, e.g. "Asia" (plenty on USA/China, human rights etc.) at <http://www.pbs.org/newshour>

#### **CBC Radio (Canada)**

This is the website of Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's radio station. The site uses real **audio** so you can listen live or check out today's news by scrolling down the right-hand side to Daily Highlights can be found at <http://cbc.ca>

#### **Radio Australia**

Radio Australia's **audio** Archives at <http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/asiapac> date back to April 2011. There's a useful link to

Regional Extra which has a list of articles related to the archived radio programs.

#### **BBC World Service Radio and for Learning English (UK)**

The website at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish> features a number of useful resources.

One of the best features of this BBC site (which is easy to navigate, features both audio and video news, but has no transcripts) is that it also has news stories in Putonghua.

#### **Learning tips**

##### **Getting ready for news listening ...**

To improve your ability to understand news reports, consider these preparatory steps:

- Find out which news report you want to listen to, when and on what channel. Decide whether you want to listen to the news **live** or make use of **video-recorded** or **archived materials on the Internet.**
- Working with a recording is easier than watching the news live as it allows you to replay news reports as often as you like. Using archived materials on the web can be even more convenient.
- Just watch the report for a few days first, before requiring yourself to

understand the stories. Give yourself time to get familiar with the newsreaders and their accents. You should also get an idea of the structure of the entire report as well as the structure of a typical news story.

### **While you are listening ...**

A news report is often packed with information. So do not require yourself to understand everything. Set realistic targets. Stop and review a story if necessary to check understanding or to predict what is to follow. Here are a few things that you may try to do:

- You can aim at just getting what a story is about. Give a one-to-two-sentence description after each story.
- You can just focus on the latest development of a story to add to what you already know about it. In this way, you can reduce the listening load substantially and focus better. This strategy is especially useful if the event has been in the news over a period of time.
- Put forward a few questions to yourself about a story, and then seek to answer them from your listening. You can do this by stopping the tape as soon as the headline is read to you. Certain questions are typical of

different kinds of stories. You will find many examples of these questions in the book ITN World News.

- You may write a full transcript of a story to practise intensive listening. This may bring to notice listening problems that have skipped your attention when you only concentrate on the content.
- When you feel that you can cope with a certain news report, try to broaden your capability by listening to a different accent, or by watching other kinds of news programs (e.g. Pearl Report).

### **After you have listened ...**

Even though the listening part is over, some follow-up activities will help you reinforce your learning:

- Keep a record book for note-taking, vocabulary, or just scribbling. This gives a physical shape to the work that you've done, and motivates you to continue.
- Learn new words and try your best to make them stay learned. (See the advice sheet **Learning vocabulary by reading or listening - V7**)
- You may write about the news. For example, you can produce a summary or express your thoughts in a brief article.

- You may talk about the news with one or more friends. This provides an opportunity to clarify what has not been understood in the listening and to express personal opinions.

### **Equip yourself better for news listening**

Vocabulary can be a big problem when you're trying to understand the news. It pays to make extra effort to learn those words that occur frequently in the news. These include:

- Names of people and places  
Pay attention to names in the news and jot them down in your record book if necessary. Take an active role to find out in English names that you know well in Chinese. Use a pronouncing dictionary (such as **The American Heritage Dictionary**, or the **Longman Contemporary Dictionary** in the Language Commons) or ask a fluent or native speaker how they are pronounced.
- Jargon  
The media use special words (e.g. regime, junta, hardliner are common in political news). They also use words in special ways (e.g. the territory for Hong Kong, the island for Taiwan). Try to build up your knowledge of these usages. A book

like **Collins Cobuild Key Words in the Media** (*see above*) will be a valuable guide.

## Evaluating your progress

It is hard to measure improvement of listening ability precisely. Nevertheless, the following may give you some indication of whether you are making progress:

- Reflect on your general ability to cope with the news at a regular interval, say every two weeks. Compare this to how you felt at an earlier time.
- Play a news story in short sections. Stop after each section to re-tell the content. Assess how many times you need to rewind the tape to get the story accurately.
- If you have a partner watching the same report, you can quiz each other after viewing.
- Assess your knowledge of words that are commonly used in the news. This should be growing gradually. You should not stumble over the same words again and again.

## And now...

If you would like any help or advice, or just a chat about your progress, please get in touch

- **we are here to support your independent learning!** To contact us:

- make an appointment to see an **adviser**. For details of advisers and their availability, please go to <https://ilang.cle.ust.hk/language-adviser-timetable/>.
- E-mail your questions to **iLANG** ([lcilang@ust.hk](mailto:lcilang@ust.hk)).
- Ask at the reception counter of the Language Commons — if the receptionist cannot help you directly, s/he will pass your query on to one of the advisers.

## What else can you do?

- Browse the many physical (<https://ilang.cle.ust.hk/language-commons/#resources>) and online materials (<https://ilang.cle.ust.hk/resources-listening/>) for Listening.
- Join a Listening activity or short course (<http://ilang.cle.ust.hk/listening/>).

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