

TESOL

Elche, 2017

THE POWER OF PODCASTS FOR ADULT SELF-STUDY



Craig Wealand, British Council, Valencia

Website: <http://www.inglespodcast.com/>

Email: craig@inglespodcast.com

Twitter: [@mansiontwit](https://twitter.com/mansiontwit)

Session stages

1. **Introduction: What is a podcast?**
2. **How effective might podcasts be in improving listening comprehension?**
3. **Why should students listen to podcasts?**
4. **Where and how can podcasts be accessed?**
5. **Which podcasts should learners be listening to?**
6. **Q&A**



1. Introduction - What is a podcast?

“A podcast is a digital medium consisting of an episodic series of audio, video, PDF, or ePub files subscribed to and downloaded through web syndication or streamed online to a computer or mobile device.

The word is a neologism and portmanteau derived from "broadcast" and "pod" from the success of the iPod, as audio podcasts are often listened to on portable media players.”

Source: Wikipedia

“A program (as of music or talk) made available in digital format for **automatic download** over the Internet.”

Source: Merriam Webster

2. The Podcast Challenge – a study made with British Council students in 2016

- 16 Spanish adult B2 students
- Half did class listenings
- Half volunteered to listen to podcasts outside classroom time
- FCE listening test to the whole class at the beginning
- 2nd FCE test after 10 weeks to test results

Name	1 st Test (30 marks)	10 weeks (hours listened)	2 nd Test (30 marks)
Jesús (group A)	27		26
M ^a Carmen (group A)	28		24
Asier (group A)	23		22
Montse (group A)	28		27
Laura (group A)	22		26
Nuria (group A)	14		17
Cristina (group A)	18		17
Bernardo (group A)	15		23
Andrés (group B)	24	21	28
Carolina (group B)	24	9	25
Eva (group B)	13	16	18
Omar (group B)	26	26	27
Paula (group B)	26	18	27
Vega (group B)	22	17	26
Miguel (group B)	23	16	26
Angeles (group B - CAE)	12/22 (54%)	56	17/22 (77%)

3. Why should students listen to podcasts?

- Intrinsic motivation by tapping into students' interests
- The wide variety of podcasts means that students can find a podcast they like
- Podcasts are free
- Students can listen wherever and whenever they like
- Podcasts ease the anxiety and frustration students sometimes experience when listening to English

4. Where and how can podcasts be accessed?

Google 'interest + podcast' (eg. 'food podcast', 'travel podcast, 'tennis podcast' etc)

Websites (including on mobile devices) BBC (at least 524 podcasts), and other podcast networks (CNN, VOA, The Guardian, TED, Radiotopia etc)

If the lesson is on sport in the course book, why not set a podcast to listen to for homework? Alternatively, students could listen before the lesson. Most podcasts have show notes and many have transcriptions to help with comprehension. Audio players can be set to playback at 50% speed.

Student activity – find a podcast that you like (Google your hobby with the word ‘podcast’) listen to it and review it for the class next lesson (written or spoken). Do this with your class once or twice a month. If you can hook your students on a podcast, imagine how much listening that will be for them going forward.

iTunes (use the search box) – IOS has the podcast app as a native app on the iPhone!

Podcast apps for Android: **Stitcher:** <https://www.stitcher.com/>

Google Play Music (free)

Pocket Casts (\$3.99) <https://play.pocketcasts.com/>

5. Which podcasts should learners listen to?

- 1) Get them to listen to what interests them by searching iTunes and other podcatchers.
- 2) Introduce them to podcasts for self-study (to improve pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary etc.) – ESL-based podcasts.

Examples of ESL podcasts

1. <http://teacherluke.co.uk/>
2. <http://www.dawayingles.com/>
3. <http://reallifeglobal.com/>
4. <http://tu-ingles.com/>
5. <http://www.quickanddirtytips.com/>
6. http://www.eslpod.com/website/index_new.html
7. <http://inglesdiario.es/>
8. <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/elementary-podcasts>
9. <http://www.amigosingleses.com/category/podcasts/>
10. <http://ingles360.abc.es/>
11. <http://vaughanradio.com/>
12. <http://www.inglespodcast.com/>

Further information, materials and resources

Podcast apps:

Stitcher: <https://www.stitcher.com/>

Pocket Casts: <https://play.pocketcasts.com/>

iTunes: <http://www.apple.com/lae/itunes/>

Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store>

The Flipped Classroom:

<http://www.knewton.com/flipped-classroom/>
<http://www.flippedclassroom.com/>

Podcasting equipment and services:

Microphone: Samson 2QU

<http://www.samsontech.com/samson/products/microphones/usb-microphones/q2u/>

Free editing software:

Audacity: <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>

Garageband (IOS): <https://www.apple.com/mac/garageband/>

Free podcast hosting:

Audioboom: <https://audioboom.com/>

Soundcloud: <https://soundcloud.com/>

The Internet Archive: <https://archive.org/index.php>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/> (must have images or video)

Recommended paid hosting (for the 'serious' podcaster!):

Libsyn: <https://www.libsyn.com/>

Blubrry: <https://www.blubrry.com/>

Recommended podcasts to get you started:

Language: inglespodcast: <http://www.inglespodcast.com/>

Grammar girl: <http://www.quickanddirtytips.com/grammar-girl>

The Allusionist: <http://www.theallusionist.org/>

TEFL: <http://www.teflcommute.com/>

Technology: This Week in Tech: <http://twit.tv/twit>

The Tech Guy: <http://www.techguylabs.com/>

History: Dan Carlin's Hardcore History: <http://www.dancarlin.com/disp.php/hh>

Sociology: This American Life: <http://www.thisamericanlife.org/>

The Moth: <https://www.themoth.org/>

Psychology: You Are Not So Smart: <http://youarenotsmart.com/>

Comedy: BBC Radio 4 comedy of the Week:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/comedy>

The Ricky Gervais Show: <http://www.therickygervaisshow.com/podcasts>

Answer Me This: <http://answermethispodcast.com/>

How To Podcast: The school of podcasting: <http://schoolofpodcasting.com/>

The Audacity to Podcast: <http://theaudacitytopodcast.com/>

Interviews: Desert Island Discs: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qnmr>

Here's The Thing with Alec Baldwin: <http://www.wnyc.org/shows/heresthething>

The Tim Ferriss Show: <http://tim.blog/podcast/>

Productivity: Beyond The To-Do List: <http://beyondthetodolist.com/>

Back To Work: <http://5by5.tv/b2w>

Asian Efficiency: <http://www.asianefficiency.com/>

Business and Entrepreneurship: Peter Day's World of Business:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/worldbiz>

The Smart Passive Income Podcast with Pat Flynn:
<https://www.smartpassiveincome.com/podcasts/>

Craig Wealand, British Council, Valencia

Website: <http://www.inglespodcast.com/>

Email: craig@inglespodcast.com

Twitter: @mansiontwit