

There are hundreds of thousands of podcasts that exist, and they can be found on almost any topic you can think of! This is why they make good listening practice. You can find a podcast that will suit your own individual interests, and you can listen to them on the go! There are a number of “podcatcher” services – apps and websites, which access podcast feeds, checks for updates, and download new files in the series.

Each week for class you will listen to two podcast episodes as homework. One of the episodes will be chosen by Sara, and it will be related to the topic being discussed in class; the other episode will be chosen by you, and it may be related to any topic you like.

The podcast episode that Sara chooses will come with a set of questions that you must answer. They will test your ability to comprehend the episode. In addition, there will be a mix of questions about vocabulary, grammar, implied information, as well as reflection/opinion questions.

The podcast episode that you choose needs to have the following elements:

- It must be a minimum of 5 minutes long for Level 3 and 10 minutes long for Level 5.
- It must be in English. ☺
- It may be on any topic you choose, so choose something that sounds interesting to you!
- You must provide a written summary of the episode, which should be approximately one paragraph in length.
- You must identify a minimum of 5 vocabulary words or expressions that are new to you, and research and define each.
- You must answer the reflection questions that are asked, and you must explain whether or not you would recommend this episode to a friend.
- **If you ever have trouble finding a podcast episode, come and see Sara for help!**

Podcatchers (How to access podcasts)

- Stitcher App (and website)
- Apple Podcasts
- iTunes Program
- NPR ONE App (Or NPR Website)
- Overcast App
- WeCast App
- RSSRadio Podcast Downloader App
- Podly - Podcasts with Friends App
- RadioPublic App
- Pod Wrangler App
- Podbay.fm App (and website)

Some popular podcasts:

- *Radiolab* (kind of about science)
- *This American Life* (about people's lives)
- *Studio 360* (about the arts – music, movies, etc.)
- *Death, Sex, and Money* (very personal interviews)
- *How I Built This* (interviews with entrepreneurs)
- *Planet Money* (interesting stories about the economy)
- *Hidden Brain* (about sociology)
- *Song Exploder* (about making music)
- *Note to Self* (about technology)
- *Reply All* (interesting stories on a variety of topics!)
- *Fresh Air* (interviews with famous people)
- *A Way with Words* (about English and how we use it)
- *Freakonomics* (interesting stories about economics)
- *Stuff You Missed in History Class* (about history)
- *On the Media* (about current events)

**Take notes as you listen to your chosen episode,
and listen as many times as you need to in order to be sure you understand what the episode is about.**

Individual Podcast Journal Template - Choose your own podcast from among the resources discussed in class.

Name of Podcast: _____

Length: _____ Source (podcatcher or website used): _____

Name of Episode: _____

Brief Synopsis (*in 1-2 sentences*): _____

NOTES:

1. **Summary of episode (approximately one paragraph):**

- o Your summary should include all the most important main ideas from the story.
- o A person who reads your summary should be able to understand what the podcast was about without having to listen to the episode.
- o The first sentence (topic sentence) of your summary should say the name of the podcast, and it should introduce the general topic of the podcast.

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2. **Vocabulary:** Identify a minimum of 5 unfamiliar words, phrases, slang or idiomatic expressions, and research the meaning of each.

Word/phrase/expression	Meaning

3. **Reflection:** Answer one of the following questions – give as many details as possible, and be sure to write in complete sentences.

A. What is something you learned from listening to this podcast episode?

B. What was the most interesting aspect of this podcast episode?

4. **Evaluation:** What was your opinion of this podcast episode? (Was it good? Was it interesting? Was it boring? Was it easy to understand? Was it difficult to understand?) Would you recommend this podcast to a friend? Why or why not?

5. Was there anything you heard in the podcast episode that you didn't understand? (This could be related to language, culture, topic, etc.) Write your questions below, and Sara will help find answers for you!