# **5 days to become a better listener**

With this course from BBC Learning English, you can become a better listener in just 5 days. Follow the instructions of Tim to achieve this goal.

## **Day 1**

Welcome to Day 1 of **5 days to become a better listener**!

### **Tip 1:**

One way of making listening easier is to predict what you might hear in situations or in conversations about certain topics. So, in a programme about tourism, you might expect to hear words like **sightsee** or **flight**.

### **Task 1:**

Now make your own list of vocabulary you would expect to hear in a programme

about tourism.

**Tourism vocabulary**

1: \_...\_

2: \_...\_

3: \_...\_

4: \_...\_

5: \_...\_

6: \_...\_

### **Task 2:**

Listen to the programme on the Lernumgebung about tourism and check to see if the words on your list were said. Join Tim for Day 2 to compare your list with his, get a new tip and try another task to improve your listening!

## **Day 2**

Welcome to Day 2 of **5 days to become a better listener**! Did you do the task for Day 1? Well, here are the word that I predicted: travel; explore; crowded; historic site; sightseers; visit; tourists; journey; attractions; cruise.

How many of your words did you hear in the 6 Minute English programme? \_...\_

### **Tip 2:**

It's important to be aware of how native speakers of English really pronounce words and sounds. This will help you in two ways. Firstly, you’ll become a more confident speaker and be more easily understood if you improve your pronunciation. Secondly, you’ll improve your listening. If you know how words

and sounds are really pronounced and how they link together in the natural flow

of speech, it will help you understand spoken English better.

### **Task 3:**

Listen to Tim's Pronunciation Workshop on the Lernumgebung and make notes below.

\_...\_

### **Task 4:**

1: How many ways is the word **can** pronounced?

2: What affects how **can** is pronounced?

A: the stress in the sentence

B: how loud the person is speaking

C: the accent the speaker has

## **Day 3**

Welcome back. It’s Day 3 of **5 days to become a better listener**! On Day 2, we learned that improving your awareness of native-speaker pronunciation can be good for your listening skills. Did you get the answers to my questions?

The word **can** is pronounced in two different ways:

The **strong form** and the **weak form**.

The correct answer for question 2 was **A: the stress in the sentence**.

We use the **strong form** when can is the word that's stressed in the sentence. We use the **weak form** when it isn't stressed. It's important to be able to recognise these features of connected speech because it will help make you a better listener.

### **Tip 3:**

Today, we'll be listening for specific information. Remember, you don't need to

listen for every detail of everything you hear. If you know what information you

need, you can focus on it.

### **Task 5:**

Listen to the Bad Dates recording on the Lernumgebung. Your task is to make a note of the way Amanda describes Daniel. So, it’s a good idea to listen for adjectives of description. Make notes below and then come back tomorrow and compare your list with mine.

\_...\_

## **Day 4**

Welcome back. It’s Day 4 of **5 days to become a better listener**! Did you enjoy Bad Dates? How did Amanda describe Daniel?

She said he was nice, attractive, charismatic, genuine - and that they had a

lot in common, or lots of common ground.

### **Tip 4:**

Storytelling is a great way to improve your listening. You become used to the rhythms of spoken English, get gripped by the story, and pick up lots of useful vocabulary.

### **Task 6:**

Here are the five sentences:

A: Victor discovers his bride has been murdered!

B: Victor begins building a female monster.

C: The monster learns how to read and use language.

D: Victor uses chemistry, alchemy and electricity.

E: The monster cries.

Now listen to Frankenstein on the Lernumgebung, and then put the sentences into the order they appear in the story.

## **Day 5**

Welcome to Day 5. You have almost completed the course! Well done!

How was the Frankenstein listening task? Do you think you got the right order of

events? You can check here:

D: Victor uses chemistry, alchemy and electricity.

C: The monster learns how to read and use language.

B: Victor begins building a female monster.

A: Victor discovers his bride has been murdered!

E: The monster cries.

### **Tip 5:**

Listening to the same recording twice, with two different tasks, can help you to understand it better.

### **Task 7:**

For my final challenge, try listening to a programme twice. I won’t tell you what

it’s about because that’s the answer to the first question, but it’s very

interesting!

Your first task is to get the general understanding of the video.

1: What is the general subject of the video?

\_...\_

### **Task 8:**

Listen again for more detail. Your question:

2: What is the name of the theatre mentioned in the video?

\_...\_