A Review of the Application of “Daily English Listening”

Open-language is an application to learn English. I have been using it by mobile phone for half a year since I paid an annual fee. The application offers some free courses for users who are hesitating to pay for their courses. These free lessons are worth to have a look, but the paid lessons help students to study English in a more structural way. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3goYnGkGeU6rPiLPHrbYEQ>

The application offers customized lesson. According to the CEFR European language outline framework design, there are six levels from A1-C2, and students are given a free English proficiency test. The recommended courses are all at this level to help them find a learning plan that suits them best. For example, A-level dialogues are interpreted in both Chinese and English, while for high-level students, the teacher will explain the points of knowledge in English to develop the ability to guess and think and it is conducive to grammar training.

There are more than 1,500 high-quality oral courses covering more than 100 topics such as workplace and life, and it is updated on a weekly basis. The classification of courses makes it suitable for various of purpose: for students, for business, for studying abroad or for merely interests. Students can choose the corresponding learning content according to their needs. For example, a white collar may mainly listen to business workplace English, which corresponds to many practical scenarios about leave, recruitment, and communication with colleagues etc.

The content is basically developed in the form of situational dialogues and there are also many original videos. It is not as rigid as textbooks so that it is not easy to get tedious or ridiculous. Lessons include reading, writing, vocabulary, listening, and even speaking exercises--an “accuracy” feature allows users to record themselves, and get feedback from voice recognition software. These exercises are highly interactive, although the speaking scoring mechanism is not strict enough as sometimes continuous reading and sentence segmentation are not very accurate. Besides, it is good to practice, but still lack of face-to-face interaction.

In addition, each lesson has a corresponding follow-up reading and assessment. The extension part of the learning module can grasp the grammar of the course more clearly; it includes a more practical cultural development, which is basically related to the course, such as the precautions for visa application, the history, and culture of coffee, restaurant etiquette etc. Not only can help students open new horizons and cognition, but also better understand the exact usage of individual words and sentences.

Moreover, the North American professor's live recordings ensure that the pronunciation is pure while making people feel really in that context, enjoying the authenticity and fun of their dialogue. There are also teachers who answer learning questions online (although sometimes questions are ignored).

Another drawback I found is that the online study class is not effective. It is an online group created by teachers aimed to improve students’ English skills, but students rarely share or communicate in the class. And students in online classes are not allowed to add friends with each other, which is unreasonable. My understanding is that the online educational application might require independent study and it is unrealistic to expect others to push or to urge myself to learn.

My suggestion is that the application the New-words lists should have the function of reviewing the words according to the time added, instead of necessarily reviewing the words in the order of A-Z and it would be better to enable students to review new words by using ‘Ebbinghaus curve of forgetting’.