

MODULE 2 - TOPIC 2.7: WATCHING AND LISTENING

This session aims to:

- Highlight the importance of videos & audio in the learning process.
- Share ideas on where to reach for video and audio learning materials.
- Advice on the most efficient online websites to reach for information.
- Explore audio and video methods to use during TBLT classes

Language courses can include not only graphics and illustrations but also narration, music, screencast tutorials, and videos.

It might be useful to add videos or audio in your language class for several reasons, it can be the main source for a listening task, but it can also be part of the pre-task to bring your students in the mood. Think of an excerpt of a film, or a song. Additionally, embedding audios into a language task can serve pronunciation & expressive purposes.

There's always a lot to learn. The good news is you don't need to be a professional audio engineer or video producer to form adequate e-learning. But it sure does help to know a little about both and how to get the best quality possible when using audio or video in your face-to-face and e-learning courses.

When it comes to "viewing", videos have become an important part of online education. It is integrated as part of traditional courses, serves as a cornerstone of many blended courses, and is often the main information delivery mechanism in MOOCs. Websites like YouTube, Vimeo, Metacafe, Dailymotion offer plenty of videos in a plethora of topics, languages, and qualities that can satisfy even the most demanding viewers/learners. The only thing needed is the patience to find a video suitable to your learning method but most importantly your learning group. TBLT practices can surely benefit from audios and videos on a huge scale.

When it comes to "audio", things get easier and wider. Listening to audios while completing other tasks is more common than ever and the list of websites serving such a purpose is huge. Websites that also include mobile application forms like Spotify, Podcasts, AudioBooks are only a few. Just create your list and let it play in the background. Clearly, listening is a skill that learners can benefit from. By becoming better listeners productivity will be improved.

As an instructor, you should always have in mind that providing your learners with slides, books, and learning material that does not abide by the 21st century can have negative results and lead to dropout during the learning process. Making your course interactive with audio and videos creates a more engaging sensory experience. Furthermore, using audio and video can be the right motivation for students to get in the mood during the pre-task.