

APPS FOR LISTENING PRACTICE

The apps described in this leaflet provide CI users with training opportunities and extra home practice. If you should find any others that you would recommend or enjoy using then please tell us so that we can add them to the list.

We have only included apps that are free of charge or those where the “basic” versions are free. If you find a particular app very helpful, you may choose to upgrade to the full version, but we recommend that you only upgrade if you feel the additional material would be of benefit to you.

You can listen to these apps using the built in speaker on your iPad, but you may find it better to use headphones over your CI or direct input from the streamer in your own kit.

If you are unsure of what is the best way for you to listen then please discuss with a member of the team.



British Council Learn English Audio & Video (iPad and Android)

Watch and listen to videos (or audio only) with a transcript on a variety of topics related to life in Britain. Lot of free videos/audio excerpts, but some also available to buy at a small cost.



Hear Coach (Starkey Laboratories) (iPad and Android)

Two separate activities:

Word Target presents sets of six words for identification. They are presented in quiet and noise and the exercise becomes increasingly complex as you progress through the levels.

Repeater presents a string of numbers for identification. The number of words to identify increases as you progress through the levels.

Note: the speaker has an American accent.



English Listening Practice (iPad)

Although this app is designed to provide practice for people learning English as a second language, it provides lots of opportunities for listening to a variety of voices (both English and American accents) at a *rapid pace* so is best saved for more advanced listening practice!

There are twelve separate downloads and the basic version (with a number of different units) of each is free.

You will hear a sentence such as “She had a green T shirt” and you will be asked to click on one of two choices e.g. “green” or “blue.” There are 12 questions for each sentence and you are given feedback after each question.



The Story Mouse Talking Books (iPad)

There is only one free story with this app (The Three Billy Goats Gruff) but many other titles are available to download at a small cost. The stories are read very clearly and the text is presented on one half of the screen and the paragraph being read is highlighted to help you to follow the speech. Although they are all children’s stories they provide excellent listening practice.

APPS FOR MUSIC

Again there are many different apps available to help you on the road to listening to music through your CI. We have just listed a few you might be interested in to get you started but please let us know if you are able to recommend any others. The following are all free to download.

The first two simple apps allow you to “play” the piano or a drum kit. There are many other similar apps for other instruments. They can be useful if you want to hear how a particular instrument sounds via your CI.

Virtuoso (iPad and Android)

This is a very realistic sounding grand piano. You could use it to experiment with how well you are able to hear the difference between notes or even to play simple tunes!

If you wish to increase the size of the keyboard or have a different type of piano e.g. electric then you will need to pay to upgrade.



Rhythm Pad (iPad)

With this app you can play a drum kit by tapping the keyboard with your fingers, allowing you to listen to a variety of percussion sounds. You can also use it to play along to any music you have stored on your iPad!

Discover Musical Instruments (iPad)

This app provides pictures and sound samples of twenty different musical instruments. There is a small upgrade fee if you want to access another forty instruments. Some of the sound samples are very short but again it may be useful if you are interested in comparing the sound of different instruments through your CI.





SoundHound (iPad and Android)

Will tell you the name and artist of any song it “hears” playing. Just point the microphone on your smart phone or iPad towards the radio or CD player etc until it identifies the song. You will then be able to follow the lyrics on the screen while listening to the song!

Interactive Music Awareness Programme (IMAP)

This is not an app, but a computer based music rehabilitation programme designed to help CI users re-engage with music and hear music more clearly. It is a free, online programme that has been developed in consultation with adult CI users. For more information or to use the IMAP resource, visit www.morefrommusic.org

We would appreciate your feedback on these or any other apps. Happy listening!