

Shadowing Slow News



Level:

Beginner—Intermediate, can be adapted for higher levels



Objectives:

The student will be able to practice listening and speaking skills to improve pronunciation, rhythm and intonation.



Timing

5-15 minutes, can be expanded further into a various levels of difficulty



Prep/

Materials:

- Select a short slow news audio and transcript from a slow news website
- Vocabulary list of words associated to slow news clip
- Audio file of the selected commentary, suggested resources:
 - News In Slow <https://www.newsinslow.com/>
 - Available in 5 languages
 - Breaking News English <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/index.html>
 - Available in American English and British English

1. Introduce audio clip and pre-teach news terminology/necessary vocabulary
2. Play the audio file on slowest speed
3. Discuss the audio file and discuss new vocabulary words, content, gist, etc.
4. Play the audio file, asking the student to focus on reading the transcript
5. Discuss the transcript specifically focusing pronunciation, intonation and rhythm of words that the student noticed
6. Play small short clips of the audio file and ask the student to repeat what is heard while focusing on the pronunciation, intonation and rhythm



Breakdown:

Suggestions for more complex exercise:

- Ask the student to shadow the audio clip while simultaneously listening to the clip or conduct the shadowing exercise without using a transcript
- Practice the shadowing exercise using a faster audio speaking speed
- Have the student “improv” or “adlib” their own commentary after they shadow the news clip to practice spontaneous speaking.