

# WEBSITES FOR LISTENING PRACTICE

A number of websites available on the Internet can serve as great practice for listening with a cochlear implant. Here are some examples, but this certainly is not a comprehensive list. Be sure you have either built in or external speakers on your computer, and alter the volume of the computer so that it is comfortable for you. You might want to use earphones or you can direct connect your implant processor to the computer through the earphone jack. If you use direct connect, the audio interface cable from AB can only be used with battery-operated devices. So that cable can only be used with a laptop computer running on battery power (or a portable audio device). If you are direct connecting your processor to a computer plugged into the wall outlet, you need to get an isolated patch cable from an independent vendor. See [www.bionicear.com](http://www.bionicear.com) in the user support section under better living, then under assistive listening devices for referrals to these vendors.

\*Please note that this listing is meant to be a resource for information and Advanced Bionics does not necessarily support or endorse these sites. Also, these weblinks may expire or become inactive.

<http://www.esl-lab.com/>

Randall's cyber listening lab for teaching English as a second language. It is packed full of a variety of listening opportunities, some of which include text with the audio, exercises and quizzes, and progress assessments. Difficulty varies from simple to complex listening and comprehension tasks. This is a great practice site for novice and experienced listeners!

<http://www.learnersdictionary.com/pron.htm>

This website consists of exercises to help people perfect their pronunciation. You can listen and follow the text, choose activities that highlight certain sounds, or that focus on syllable stress.

<http://www.wavcentral.com/>

On this website, you can type in text and listen as the computer generated voice speaks it or select from a number of sound samples collected from movies, TV shows, and commercials, many of which have the text written out for you to follow.

<http://basicenglishclass.tripod.com/>

Listening practice with words, sentences, songs and short stories. Lyrics and text provided with the audio files.

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/tutorial.html>

Listen and learn about medical conditions!

<http://www.findsounds.com/types.html>

Examples of all sorts of environmental sounds

<http://www.weather.com/multimedia/>

Spoken weather reports (with background music) and some text

<http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/listen/>

Learn about and learn to differentiate orchestral music and instruments

<http://www.thirteen.org/publicarts/orchestra/>

Name that instrument! Listen to a short sound clip and then pick out the correct instrument out of a group of 4-5 different choices.

[http://members.tripod.com/Caroline\\_Bowen/wordlists.html](http://members.tripod.com/Caroline_Bowen/wordlists.html)

For use with a listening coach, this site contains downloadable lists of words called "minimal pairs" (for example, tip/chip) that can be used to practice differentiating similar sounding words. Start with the discrimination level (do the words sound the same or different?), and move on to identification of each word.

<http://esl.about.com/od/listeningbeginners/>

Listening exercises including songs

<http://www.learnersdictionary.com/index.html>

Ever wondered how to pronounce a certain word? On this website, you type in the word and can hear correct English pronunciation.

<http://www.learnersdictionary.com/pron.htm>

Short sentences demonstrate how two different words can vary only slightly (e.g., fear/veer, accent stress).

<http://public.research.att.com/~ttsweb/tts/demo.php#top>

TTS, short for Text-To-Speech, is the creation of audible speech from computer readable text. Type up to 300 characters and listen to your result.

[http://www.ello.org/games/student\\_games.htm](http://www.ello.org/games/student_games.htm)

They have great pictures and the voices are really natural. The games are varied but the idea is listen to a clip, answer a question and then move on.

<http://www.manythings.org/ac/>

Modeled after the child's card game "Memory", the object of this game is to listen to short sound clips and find matches. There are no pictures or words provided – listening only!

[http://www.beenleigss.qld.edu.au/requested\\_sites/audiostories/](http://www.beenleigss.qld.edu.au/requested_sites/audiostories/)

A wonderful site with links to dozens of stories that vary by levels of difficulty.

<http://www.manythings.org/pp/>

Great practice with minimal pairs (words that only vary by one sound), songs, poems and tongue-twisters.

<http://www.tellitagan.com/>

Collection of children's stories – some with illustrations and some with audio/text only.

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics/about.html#>

Very detailed website about how consonants and vowels are produced including video clips and audio clips demonstrating the sounds.

<http://www.browsealoud.com/home.asp>

Another similar idea is to download a free screenreader, such as this one. With your mouse, you select words on the computer screen and the program will read them to you.

<http://www.auditoryverbaltraining.com/websites.htm>

Another list of more websites for listening practice.

**Don't forget the Aural Rehabilitation materials available from Advanced Bionics!**

**Contact Customer Service at 800/678-2575 to order your copy.**

**For more information, go to**

<http://www.bionicear.com/support/bea2006.asp#rehab>

### **Bringing Sound to Life**

*For parents of younger children with cochlear implants*

An informative video training program that walks you through the world of cochlear implant rehabilitation to give you the knowledge you need, insights you will value, and the proven strategies to rely on for developing systematically the spoken language skills of a child who has a cochlear implant.

Manual (090337-A) \$ 49.99

DVD (090336-A) \$149.99



### **Making the Connection**

*For adults and adolescents with cochlear implants*

A comprehensive workbook and audio CDs of listening practice exercises that begin with relatively simple auditory skills and progress step by step to more complex listening tasks. Exercises and suggested listening activities can be completed at your own pace independently or with a friend or family member who serves as a listening coach.

(090103-A) \$ 35.00



### **Hearing Your Life Rehabilitation Software**

*For adults and adolescents with cochlear implants*

An interactive computer-based software program containing self-assessment and training modules that help you to work independently as you progress through simple to more difficult auditory skills. Diverse listening activities include environmental sound and speaker discrimination, vowel and consonant identification, common words and sentences, hearing in noise, and listening to musical patterns.

(090433-A) \$189.99

