



PODCASTING

TOOLS AND IDEAS

WHY PODCASTS WORK IN THE CLASSROOM



PODCASTS ARE PORTABLE

With audio, students are not tied to a screen, so they can do all kinds of other things while listening to podcasts, including exercise, art projects, and chores.



LISTENING IMPROVES READING

From primary through high school, research shows that developing listening comprehension supports reading proficiency.



PODCASTS ARE CURRENT

Many podcasts offer discussion of current events, helping you keep things fresh.



PODCASTS COME IN A VARIETY OF LENGTHS

This variety lets you choose whether to make listening the main meal or just a side dish.



PODCASTS HELP MEET ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Many state standards now include listening skills. And many podcasts on educational platforms are also tagged with academic standards for content.



LISTENING SUPPORTS MULTI-LINGUAL LEARNING

Listening lets English learners access content and hear authentically spoken language.



LISTENING SHAPES YOUR BRAIN

Listening activates parts of the brain responsible for sound, sight, motor control, and olfaction. And listening to stories improves psychological safety.

A list of reasons why podcasts work in the classroom made by Lindsay Patterson (2021), founder of the Tumble Science Project and co-founder of Kids Listen



RECORDING TOOLS

A list

Selection of the most famous online apps
used to record and edit audio

PODCAST APPS

(UNIR, 2021; Diana Z, 2021)



Audacity

Free and easy to use software to record live audio, create recordings and edit sound files. You can only upload the files you and students create in the online environments of your choice, ensuring security and privacy.



Anchor

Anchor allows you to record, edit, add audio, etc. It works in both PC and phone and you can publish them directly from the application or save them as a file. It can be used as a collaborative tool.



Soundtrap

This tool is perfect for those who would like to explore creative ways of recording and telling a story. You can upload/download podcasts, edit and add sounds/effects. It has an interactive transcript feature!

PODCAST PLATFORMS

A list

Selection of the most famous platforms
where you can listen to podcasts and get
inspired to create your own

PODCASTS FOR KIDS



But Why

This is a very interesting podcast in which questions that children made are answered. You will listen to topics large and small, about nature, words, even the end of the world.

(npr, 2022)



Tumble Science Podcast

This podcast has stories about science discoveries with the help of scientists. The speakers ask questions, uncover mysteries, and share what science is all about.

(Tumble, n.d.)



Brains On!

Award-winning science podcast for kids and curious adults. This is another podcast which fosters the kid's curiosity by asking and answering fascinating questions about the world.

(Minnesota Public, 2022)

PODCAST ACTIVITIES

For the classroom

What can you do with podcasts in your
lessons?

1.

Listen & debate

Bring to the classroom a podcast related to the topic you are teaching and formulate pre-listening, while-listening and after-listening questions. Divide the class in two sections and initiate a debate.

2.

Create a classroom podcast

Divide your class into collaborative workgroups. Every month it is the turn of one group to create the monthly podcast related to the unit lesson the teacher has been teaching during the month. The students can use this podcast to review the topic at the end of the unit. It could be posted in the school's web for the rest of students to listen.

The podcast classics

Dramatize podcasts. Bring theatre, poems and stories to your classroom. Ask students to create their own podcast episodes in which they dramatize literature classics: Romeo and Juliet, Alice in Wonderland, Don Quixote... Ask them to research a little of the stories and invent their own arguments and scripts.

3.

Drawing your words

Play a podcast in the classroom and divide your students in groups. They have to work cooperatively (division of tasks and roles) and listen actively to the podcast taking notes. After this, they should be inspired to draw what they listened to in a cardboard. Then, they can present it to the classroom using storytelling techniques.

4.

ACTUALLY . . .

Actually, it all depends on the subject you have! If it's Science, then you could use a podcast as an excuse to do some project or experiment. If it's Foreign Languages, you can create activities to learn vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation... Just take the podcasts and create activities based on what you listen to.

It will be fun!

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