



## Listening to a podcast

The advent of the podcast, which can be downloaded onto a computer or portable audio player and listened to at anytime, is revolutionising the way programmes and information are being disseminated. This activity helps students to improve their learning from listening. The technique of note-taking in this activity can be used for any presentation or lecture. Students should be reminded to use it when appropriate. Suggested podcasts will be listed on the main activity page on the SiS website [www. http://www.scienceinsocietyadvanced.org/as/topics/activities-for-medicines,67,AR.html](http://www.scienceinsocietyadvanced.org/as/topics/activities-for-medicines,67,AR.html).

### Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- apply techniques for learning from podcasts
- take notes and summarise information given in a podcast
- identify the theme(s) covered in a podcast.

### Time required

The length of the podcast plus approximately 15 minutes.

### Outline of the activity

The techniques of note taking are practised in this activity. Similar techniques can be applied to note-taking from lectures or presentations.

1 It is important to discuss the possible approaches to this task with students. The Powerpoint presentation provided can be used to summarise the techniques used in note-taking.

2 Explain that students will be listening to an audio broadcast, and they will be required to produce a summary. The briefing sheet can be used for this.

It is useful for the students to evaluate their summaries at the end of the activity. This could be done using self- or peer-assessment, or a combination of both, using the evaluation form provided.

### Tips and strategies



Although this is a mode of learning that students are unlikely to encounter in the classroom, it is highly likely that they will use podcasts (or audio broadcasts) as sources at some point. Although students may become experts at digesting presentations, they may not recognise the skills required to fully access a podcast. As such, you should encourage the students to formalise their approach to listening in this way.

In this instance, you might want to listen to the podcast beforehand so you are ready for any questions that the students might have at the end.



## Listening to a podcast: briefing sheet

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You may have done some work already on learning effectively from presentations. In this activity you will learn from a podcast. This requires slightly different skills as there are no visual prompts for you.

These tips will be useful in helping you to produce a summary.

- 1 Before listening to the podcast, make sure you have the equipment you need (paper, pen etc). Focus your mind on the task.
- 2 Write the title of the podcast and the name of the presenter. It may also be useful to record the date and place where you are listening to the podcast, so you can reference any information you use later.
- 3 Draw a line down the page, about a third of the way in from the right. Put your summary of the podcast on the left and your own thoughts and any questions you think of on the right.
- 4 Don't lose focus - write down any thoughts / questions quickly, so you don't lose track of the podcast. Although you won't have the opportunity to ask questions directly at the end, you will be able to research them later.
- 5 As the podcast proceeds, try to break it down into sub-topics. These may be clearly indicated during the course of the podcast, but if they're not you need to pick them out yourself. As you write the summary, keep the sub-topics in separate paragraphs with headings.
- 6 Try experimenting with visual representations (e.g. flow diagram, spider diagram, concept map, mind map) for some sub-topics. Compare this with making notes in written text.
- 7 If time allows, write a sentence after each paragraph / sub-topic summarising the main message of that sub-topic in the podcast. You may prefer to do this at the end of the podcast.
- 8 If you are able to sketch some illustrations, this may be very helpful (the old adage says 'a picture speaks a thousand words'), but you may not be confident doing so while you are listening.
- 9 At the end of your summary, record the main ideas covered in the podcast.
- 10 Write down anything that you feel you need to learn more about, in addition to any questions you noted during the podcast. It is good practice to do some research to find out the answers afterwards.
- 11 When you have completed your summary, evaluate the quality of your summary using this form.



## Listening to a podcast: briefing sheet

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Item	Score (1-5)
I concentrated and listened throughout	
I broke my summary down into sub-topics/paragraphs	
I identified the key points and noted them	
I summarised what was said in my own words	
I used visual representations in my summary	
I made notes on my own thoughts/questions during the presentation	
I wrote down the main ideas covered in the podcast at the end	
I documented and summarised most of the information delivered in the podcast	

Total score: \_\_\_\_\_

12 Make a note of areas to improve next time you make notes from a presentation or podcast.