
KOMPETENZPROFIL

Dauer:	ab 2 Unterrichtsstunden
Kompetenzen:	Hörverstehenskompetenz
Thematische Bereiche:	<i>slavery, poverty and wealth, American identity, sports, gender equality, Generation Z</i>

Notes on the material

This unit covers major topics from the advanced level English curriculum and is suitable not only for improving listening comprehension skills but also for exam revision. The topics include slavery, important musical events, poverty and wealth, American identity, gender equality, sport and others. The worksheets come with pre- and post-listening tasks which facilitate research, presentation, debating and discussion activities. There are also exercises which give students the chance to improve their analysis of images and the language of protest.

Unit 1 provides a set of tips designed to remind students of best behaviour when doing listening tasks. The guidelines are fundamental to improved performance at listening comprehension so it is recommended that the teacher reads through the tips with the class.

Unit 2 focuses on the musical legacy and funeral of Jamaican reggae artist Bob Marley. There are recordings from the funeral itself and statements by people who knew him which highlight the importance of the man and the musician. This worksheet also contains a photo collage which is linked to political protest. This collage allows for a discussion of music as a means of achieving political change. In particular, photographs from a huge demonstration in Berlin are provided including one which highlights Bob Marley's lasting impact on politics and youth today.

Unit 3 explores the issue of Black people, racism and the history of the slave trade in Scotland. The audio file and worksheet concentrate on the case of Joseph Knight, a Black slave in Scotland who took his owner to court and won his freedom. This case brought an end to slavery in Scotland. Although the recording deals with one slave's pursuit of freedom in the distant past, the topic allows for a broader discussion of the lives of Black people around the world both historically and in modern times.

Overview

Unit 1

Topic: Listening comprehension – Guidelines and tips

M 1 **Improving comprehension skills – General guidelines** / Info sheet providing general guidelines concerning listening comprehension

M 2 **Doing listening comprehension tasks – Useful tips** / List of tips for dealing with listening comprehension tasks

Unit 2

Topic: Momentous events – Bob Marley’s funeral

M 3 **Bob Marley’s funeral – Getting to know his legacy** / Researching and presenting a Bob Marley song; listening to the audio and doing comprehension tasks; describing and analysing three photos; researching and presenting a protest song

Unit 3

Topic: Scotland and Slavery – Joseph Knight

M 4 **Britain’s Black past – Joseph Knight** / Researching the slave trade; defining vocabulary; listening to the audio and doing comprehension tasks; researching Joseph Knight

Unit 4

Topic: Betty Friedan – “The Feminine Mystique”

M 5 **Betty Friedan: “The Feminine Mystique” – An introduction** / Completing a gap text

- M 6** **“The Feminine Mystique” – Gender issues then and now /** Researching famous women and women in der 21st century; discussing the role of women in modern media; listening to the audio and doing comprehension tasks; conducting a survey
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Unit 5

Topic: Wealth and poverty

- M 7** **Wealth and poverty – The unequal distribution of wealth /** Describing and analysing two photos; defining the terms “wealth” and “poverty”; listening to the audio and doing comprehension tasks; discussing a quotation
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Unit 6

Topic: American identity and the media – The role of the Super Bowl

- M 8** **The language of the Super Bowl – The rules and important terms /** Completing a gap text; getting to know the rules and important terms

- M 9** **The Super Bowl – American identity and the media /** Researching the history of the Super Bowl; listening to the audio and doing comprehension tasks; researching Taylor Swift’s marketing strategy
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Unit 7

Topic: Generation Z

- M 10** **Generation Z – Its lives and politics /** Researching Generation Z and its relationship to the digital age; listening to the audio and doing comprehension tasks; researching further generations

M 1 Improving comprehension skills – General guidelines



Listening comprehension is one of the most important skills when studying any language. There are many things you can do to improve this important ability and get ready for tests:

1. Begin with **content that matches your level**. Listen to audio files which are not too difficult. It is important at the beginning that you understand some, or most of it and take it from there. Avoid very difficult material because that may dishearten you. Choosing **content which appeals to you** will also make it easier to follow. Ask yourself what hobbies and interests you have and search for programmes or podcasts in those fields.
2. Increase your vocabulary by **learning a few new difficult words each day**. Keep these in a copy or digital file and revise them regularly.
3. If there are words in English you find difficult to **pronounce**, go to an online dictionary and find out how to say them. Here are two of the many options available: <https://forvo.com/> and <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/>.
4. Take advantage of **language learning applications** as well as the sections of your school e-book which you can listen to.
5. Use online sources and listen to **original English-language recordings** which also contain **subtitles**. Follow the subtitles and sound together. When you encounter new phrases, replay this word or phrase until you recognise it. Don't forget: It is important to choose video and audio sources with **native speakers**. There will be times when the audio is unclear or the speaker speaks too quickly for you, but persist and it will get easier. Here are some suitable sources:
 - <https://www.bbc.com/video>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/@TheEconomist>
 - <https://www.npr.org/>
 - <https://edition.cnn.com/>
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds>
 - <https://www.lbc.co.uk/>
 - <https://www.rte.ie/radio/radio1/>
6. To improve your understanding of certain **accents**, listen to Scottish, Irish, Welsh, Australian and Indian speakers to get an idea of how they differ from American or British English. Many learners find American English easier to understand than other accents or dialects. If you find one accent easier than others, concentrate on that one.
7. You can also download and read a **transcript** of an audio before listening to the audio without the transcript. You can of course reverse this process; first the audio and then the transcript. One good source in this case is www.NPR.org.
8. **Music and video games** can help language students to improve their skills. Listening to music or playing video games which contain a lot of dialogue will be of benefit.
9. As you improve, **listen to audio books** and novels. Many people who are good at English credit Harry Potter. Pick a favourite author and try!

6. Tick the correct answer: During this programme about Marley, sound systems are compared to ...
- Christmas jingles
 - omnipresent mobile phones
 - omnipresent mobile discos
 - Christmas party music
7. Give three reasons why Bob Marley was important for the people of Jamaica.



8. How did people pay tribute to Bob Marley?

9. What impact did his funeral have on the political schedule that week?

10. Fill in the exact missing words.

The Prime Minister Edward Seaga was a former _____
_____ by profession, and he said that Marley's song "Rastaman Vibrations"
_____ Marley's deep _____.

11. Why was Marley's death felt most of all in Trenchtown?

12. Explain the importance of these numbers:

- a) 36: _____
- b) Thousands: _____
- c) 4: _____



Post-listening activities

13. These three photographs were taken at a political rally in Berlin in 2024. In groups, pick photo A or B and describe it. Then contrast it with photo C. How do they differ in message, participants and effectiveness? What does this tell us about Marley and his message?
14. Select a famous song of political protest. Research the writer/singer, his or her background and the times in which the song became famous. Also focus on how music can achieve political change. Present your findings in class.



Photo A



Photo: © Liam Cleary

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