

## Listening to Audio books\*

*Prof K Elango*

**Objectives** : To enable listeners to focus on the key expressions (words/chunks of utterances) to enhance their linguistic competence and on some central ideas to build up their knowledge base.

**Text** : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZPZOBCBZyM>  
**The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari** – Robin Sharma read by himself.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndWTAstj9-Y>  
With text slides.

**Duration** : 2.40 hrs.

### **Preparation:**

Listening to as many audio books (short ones) as possible to get trained to listen attentively and to restrict the wandering of the mind by jotting down notes.

### **Procedure:**

Setting the context and the task:

Robin Sharma's **The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari** published in 1997 is a self-help book based on his own personal experiences of being a lawyer.

It is one of the best sellers, sold more than four million copies in 51 languages and made into a movie.

Robin Sharma is a Canadian writer and published about 12 books so far.

**Task:** Completing the sentences by filling up their blanks.

**Process:** Listen to the entire audio to get an overview of the book or divide the book into a number of chunks based on certain criteria (such as themes, plot development, incidents and so on), which can make listening a manageable. For example, chapters 1 to 4 of the book can form the first chunk (The lawyer, Julian's, glorious practice, decision to leave, spiritual journey in India and his return) and so on.

- While listening for the first time, jot down notes on the ideas that are significant, context bound and expressions that are unfamiliar.
- Read the sentences with blanks that are to be filled in before listening to the audio the second time.
- The second listening has to focus on getting the expressions using which the gaps are to be filled in.

Fill in the blanks of the sentences given below:

(As the listening progresses there should be more number of blanks in the tasks to challenge the listening ability).

I simply stood there, \_\_\_\_\_ by the shock of what I had just witnessed.

It soon became clear to me that he was being consumed by the \_\_\_\_\_: more \_\_\_\_\_, more \_\_\_\_\_ and more money.

The constant \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of a trial lawyer had broken his most important and perhaps most human \_\_\_\_\_: his \_\_\_\_\_. Julian grew visible \_\_\_\_\_ as he \_\_\_\_\_ how he sold all his \_\_\_\_\_ and headed for India, a land where \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ had always fascinated him.

It is supposed to be a holistic, integrated set of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to liberate the potential of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

The number of blanks in the comprehension tasks should be decided by at what level the learners are and their speed of learning. If needed, the listeners can have the freedom 'to listen again' to check their responses.

#### **Learning outcomes:**

- (1) Learners recognize that the key expressions (lexical chunks/words) are important to recall the ideas as the exact words of the writers may not be possible to remember.
- (2) Learners realize that the one of the best ways to improve their language competence is to focus on expressions – (not on the individual words alone) in their proper contexts.

#### **Further practice:**

As there are number of audio books belonging to different genres learners could identify their areas of interest and listen to them. If the printed texts of them are available, they could utilize both as the visual and the auditory inputs can enhance their comprehension and retention.

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\***Audio books:** The history of audio books goes back to as early as 1930s and they were available in different formats at different times such as audio cassettes and compact discs. Now, we find them online and freely downloadable.

#### **Suggested popular titles:**

**Alchemist** – Paul Coelho

**Think and Grow Rich** – Napoleon Hill

**The Firm** – John Grisham