

Using audio-
books to learn
a language



The choice of audiobooks ranges from children's stories and literature to easy-to-follow audiobooks in CD format and online (podcasts). To get started, you can search for a **story you already know or an easy-to-follow audiobook**.

Listen to the story for the first time, without worrying about understanding each individual word; try to engage with the **rhythm** of the story: in many cases the intonation and the context help to understand what is being said.

Listening to it a second time will enable you to pick up more elements, enter the plot, **imagine** the characters and **visualise** the setting that forms the backdrop for the story.

Language is absorbed through two channels: the visual and auditory channels. The audiobook text can assist you in listening: **reading what you hear** allows you to give written form to sounds and to understand how a word is pronounced.

Now that you know the content of the story, try to read a passage aloud while listening to the audio. This is called **simultaneous reading**. Occasionally you may find the text runs ahead of you, but with practice you'll be able to keep up!

Pausing the CD allows you to make a note of **key words and expressions** and use them to recount the content of the audiobook out loud or to another person.

Another exercise is to stop the audio playback and try to complete it **in your own words**.

Listening to the audiobook with another person or in a group gives you the opportunity to discuss your understanding of the story, clarify any doubts, ask each other questions, if possible, in the language of the audiobook.

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