

Podcasting and foreign language teaching and learning: A perfect partnership for authentic listening

Sponsored by the CTLT Instructional Podcasting Development Initiative

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What is podcasting?

Definition: A podcast is a pre-recorded audio program that is posted to a website and is made available for download so people can listen to the audio files on personal computers or mobile devices.

- Most podcasts are able to work like RSS feeds, which allow listeners to subscribe to the program and receive new podcasts automatically.
- In this project, I used modified podcasts – that is, most audio files were available for download through Blackboard, but the students did not subscribe to them.

Podcasting takes its name from Apple's popular iPod line of products, but it isn't limited only to iPod owners and listeners.

Definition taken from the Entrepreneur Network
(<http://www.entrepreneur.com/encyclopedia/term/159122.html>)

Purpose: To improve aural comprehension

Learning a foreign language



Understanding spoken language -
DIFFICULT



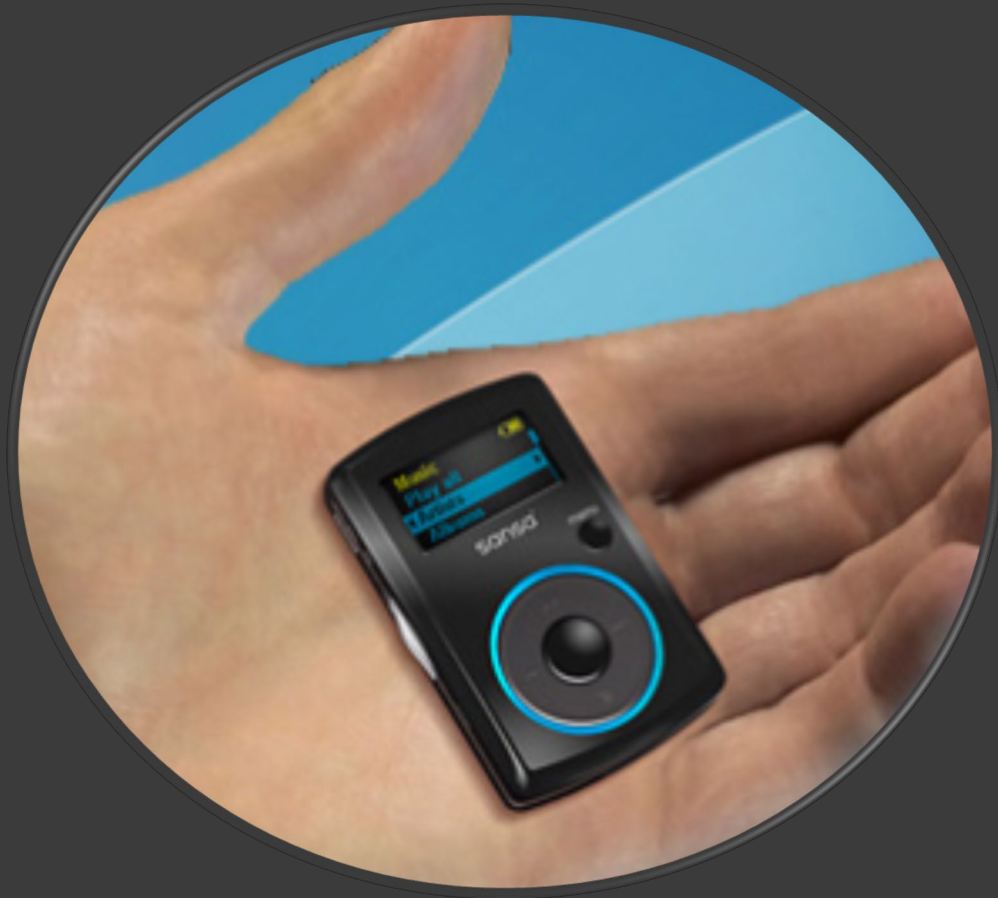
Need to provide more opportunities to
practice listening skills, especially
while out of the classroom

How grant monies were used:

Olympus DS-30
Digital Voice
Recorder



How grant monies were used:



SanDisk Sansa
Clip mp3 player
(1GB)

Thirteen mp3 players
were purchased for
classroom use

Instructional Strategies and Activities

Voice Recorder:

Main purpose: To record native speakers' voices to bring into the classroom

1. Interviews
2. "Book on tape"
3. Simulated conversations (AP style)

Instructional Strategies and Activities, cont.

Mp3 Players:

Main purpose: To provide students with a variety of listening opportunities out of the classroom and to make the audio mobile so they are not limited to being stuck at a computer

1. Podcasts (AP class) – extensive listening (20+ minutes)
2. Spanish-language music
3. Murder mystery (matched theme of literature, teacher created audio)
4. Scavenger Hunt (practicing commands – student created audio with Audacity)
5. Voice recorder (student interviews in the community – audio shared through Blackboard)