



Spotlight Unterrichts-Tipp

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Headlines

If someone asked you to guess which events would be reported on this evening's *Tagesschau*, you could probably guess at least two correctly. And if you were asked to provide some background to those stories, you could probably do that, too.

This is something you should keep in mind when presenting your students with a listening exercise. Asking them to find out the background to a news story will give them the chance to get the very best out of the listening task.

Below is one simple but effective way to do “pre-listening” with them.

Who it's for:

All levels

What it's for:

To prepare students for a listening exercise.

What you need:

A segment of audio with an interesting title — for example in *Spotlight 1/16: “Staying alive”* in *World View*, page 12.

What you do:

Display the title of the audio segment. You should do this at the beginning of the lesson as part of your lesson agenda. That way, students will have longer to think about its meaning.

When you get to the listening activity, ask students work in pairs. They should speculate on the content of the story. Alternatively, you could give students five minutes to write a short text based on the headline — perhaps with some key words from the story to help them along.

After hearing some of their ideas or the short texts they have written, play the audio.

Discuss how the class's predictions and the story matched up. Mention to your learners that doing a predicting activity like this helps them to become better listeners.