

## Sound Bites for Better Teaching

### Using Authentic Materials to Develop Language Skills

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Listening Materials



Visual Materials



Reading Materials

Authentic language materials are listening, visual, and reading materials created by native speakers of a language for native speakers of the language. The listening skill can be developed by means of TV commercials, news clips, movies, songs, and documentaries. Authentic printed materials to develop reading skills include newspapers, magazines, comic books, menus, tourist information brochures, advice columns, TV guides, and movie advertisements. Visual materials to stimulate the speaking skill include photographs, paintings, pictures from magazines, postcards, posters and stamps. Used efficiently, authentic materials will help to develop the four language skills that are culturally appropriate and accurate. <http://www.hlomag.co.uk/aug10/mart03.htm>

#### **Self Evaluation** (no right or wrong answers)

*Do you think that using L2 newspaper articles or song lyrics to show examples of thematic vocabulary and grammar rules is a good use of those articles or lyrics?*

*Do you use the content of newspaper or magazine articles as a springboard for discussion?*

*Do you play L2 music in your classroom? What do you do with it other than just listen?*

*Do you have a collection of up-to-date videos depicting the L2 culture? Do you focus on the 3Ps when showing them?*

*Do you engage your students in compare and contrast activities based on those videos?*

*When showing a foreign language movie, do you prefer those with English subtitles or not?*

*Explain.*

*Do the posters that you display around your classroom depict authentic or stereotypical scenes of the L2 country?*

#### **TIP**

Scores of authentic materials are freely and readily available on the Internet. By googling los periódicos españoles, el cine español, la música española, les journaux français, le cinéma français, la musique française, les annonces publicitaires, etc., you will have direct access to numerous websites containing authentic material to enliven your classes and motivate your students in developing the language skills. For example, just click on the following links:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QKQfZ9Tpfco>

<http://www.lapressedefrance.fr>

<http://www.lastfm.fr/tag/chanson%20francaise>