



## Case Study

**Profession:** Civil Servant (Estonia)

**Objective:** Refine spoken precision without idioms; master natural stress & intonation; communicate clearly in diplomacy

**Outcome:** More precise, confident speech; strong listening and vocabulary recall for international meetings & briefings

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### 1. Profile / Background

**Age / Nationality:** 44, Estonian

**Current Level of English:** Advanced (C1)

**Previous Learning Experience:** Extensive formal study and independent learning; demonstrates near-native reading comprehension.

**Occupation / Area of Study:** Civil servant, working internationally.

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### 2. Specific Needs and Objectives

#### Language Skills Focus:

- Precision in vocabulary choice and sentence structure.
- Development of natural stress and intonation patterns in spoken English.
- Refining fluency in professional communication while avoiding idiomatic expressions.

#### Reasons for Learning English:

- To communicate with clarity and precision in international professional contexts.
- To ensure diplomatic and formal communication remains effective and unambiguous.

#### Short-Term Objectives:

- Expand and refine vocabulary to achieve maximum precision in speech and writing.
- Improve spoken fluency with a focus on word stress, rhythm, and intonation.
- Strengthen the ability to engage in high-level discussions on abstract and professional topics.

#### Long-Term Goals:

- Achieve full confidence in professional spoken English at a near-native level.
- Use English with accuracy and nuance to represent his role in international forums and negotiations.

### 3. Method

#### Tutors' Approach:

- Initial needs analysis revealed strong receptive skills but a desire for greater spoken precision.
- Focus placed on advanced expression without idiomatic usage at the learner's request.

#### Instructional Strategy:

- Deep work on accuracy and precision through discussion of complex intellectual topics.
- Integration of **authentic listening practice** - high-level news bulletins, policy podcasts, and international affairs reports - with tasks to identify gist **and** extract specific professional vocabulary.
- Pronunciation and prosody training focused on word stress and natural intonation.

#### Materials and Resources Used:

- News broadcasts and international relations podcasts for targeted listening and vocabulary work.
  - Authentic articles on AI ethics, global politics, and historical developments.
  - Vocabulary-building tasks exploring synonyms and precise adjective choice.
  - Recorded speech analysis for self-correction of intonation and rhythm.
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### 4. Content

#### Examples of Content Used in Lessons:

- Detailed analysis of current-affairs podcasts and policy briefings.
- Listening tasks: taking notes on gist, identifying specific terms or legal/political references.
- Discussions on motivation, AI, international governance, and European history.
- Structured speech practice focusing on clarity and precision.

#### Skills Developed:

- Greater skill in **active listening** — grasping both overall message and technical wording from authentic audio.
- Enhanced ability to select exact vocabulary to convey complex ideas without idiomatic phrasing.
- Improved speech rhythm and natural intonation.

#### Specific Exercises or Activities:

- Listen → summarise → refine vocabulary based on authentic political and policy content.
- Guided discussions with real-time feedback on adjective choice and sentence structure.
- Spoken summaries of podcasts and news reports with targeted pronunciation coaching.

## **5. Progress**

### **Challenges Faced:**

- Shifting from passive comprehension to active vocabulary retrieval during complex listening.
- Adjusting prosody and stress to sound more fluent and less overly formal.

### **Highlights / Key Achievements:**

- Significantly better at extracting key terms and details from complex English audio.
  - More precise spoken expression with advanced vocabulary replacing simpler terms.
  - Improved confidence and natural rhythm when presenting professional ideas.
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## **6. Outcome**

### **Immediate Applications:**

- More effective participation in international meetings and policy briefings after listening to complex English input.
- Clear, idiom-free but sophisticated spoken English for diplomatic contexts.

### **Long-Term Use:**

- Continued work with authentic listening to sustain precision and near-native fluency.
- Greater agility in responding spontaneously and clearly in international professional settings.