



Case Study

Profession: Tax consultant (Japan)

Objective: Move from advanced to near-native; enrich vocabulary & idiomatic expression; analyse complex business content

Outcome: Confident high-level speaking and writing; able to summarise and discuss authentic business audio & texts

1. Profile / Background

Age / Nationality: 29, Japan

Current Level of English: Advanced (C1)

Previous Learning Experience: Strong foundation in English due to international education during his youth; extensive exposure to English in professional and academic contexts.

Occupation / Area of Study: Tax consultant with an international client base.

2. Specific Needs and Objectives

Language Skills Focus:

- Advanced vocabulary building and idiomatic expressions
- Refining fluency in academic and professional discussions
- Enhancing skills for summarising and analysing complex materials

Reasons for Learning English:

- To function at a near-native level in professional contexts
- To broaden communication ability for nuanced business negotiations and client interactions

Short-Term Objectives:

- Expand use of idiomatic and natural-sounding expressions
- Confidently summarise and analyse advanced texts and audio resources
- Increase comfort with complex listening materials, particularly debates, lectures, and business case studies

Long-Term Goals:

- Achieve near-native fluency in both written and spoken English
- Strengthen his ability to work seamlessly in international business and consulting contexts

3. Method

Tutors' Approach:

- Lessons tailored to focus on high-level discussion and critical analysis of authentic texts and audio.
- Guided coaching designed to encourage precision and confidence in advanced vocabulary use.

Instructional Strategy:

- Task-based learning incorporating complex listening and reading activities.
- Integration of business case studies to simulate real-world consultancy challenges.
- Use of authentic **complex audio** (international news bulletins, specialist finance/legal podcasts) to train both gist comprehension and targeted listening for specific terms and data points.
- Emphasis on real-world, discussion-driven practice with opportunities for spontaneous use of idioms.

Materials and Resources Used:

- News bulletins and professional podcasts (e.g., BBC Business, Financial Times) for authentic listening.
 - Advanced articles, op-eds, and financial reports.
 - Business case studies relevant to economics, taxation, and global business strategy.
 - Vocabulary-building exercises targeting idiomatic usage and natural phrasing.
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4. Content

Examples of Content Used in Lessons:

- Analysis and summary of advanced op-eds and business commentary.
- Authentic audio from news and podcasts, followed by exercises to extract both **overall gist** and **precise terminology**.
- Business case studies exploring multinational taxation, corporate governance, and financial ethics.

Skills Developed:

- Improved ability to summarise and critically evaluate complex audio and written materials.
- Increased use of advanced vocabulary and idiomatic expressions.
- Stronger listening skills — able to move beyond gist to identify key data and nuanced professional terms.

Specific Exercises or Activities:

- Listening → note-taking → summary tasks using business news/podcasts.
 - Vocabulary extraction from authentic audio (spotting technical terms, collocations).
 - Summarising op-eds and case studies, followed by critical Q&A sessions.
 - Role-plays simulating client consultations and boardroom presentations requiring nuance and tact.
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5. Progress**Challenges Faced:**

- Incorporating idiomatic expressions naturally into professional speech.
- Listening deeply enough to capture unfamiliar advanced vocabulary.

Highlights / Key Achievements:

- Rapid improvement in listening comprehension — able to identify subtle, field-specific terms in complex audio.
 - Stronger summarisation and analysis of authentic sources.
 - Began integrating idiomatic expressions into speech confidently.
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6. Outcome**Immediate Applications:**

- More effective participation in international business meetings.
- Enhanced ability to advise and communicate with clients after interpreting nuanced information from live briefings and reports.

Long-Term Use:

- Continued refinement through exposure to authentic audio and case-based analysis to sustain near-native fluency and insight in global markets.