

LISTENING

How to download and edit sound files?

podcast: The word *podcasting* is a contraction of *iPod*, Apple's portable MP3 player and *broadcasting*. *Podcasting* is a system in which podcasters offer audio files on the Internet. *Podcasting* is called *Almost Live Radio*. In America a number of *preachers* have started with their own radio programmes on the net: *Godcasting*.

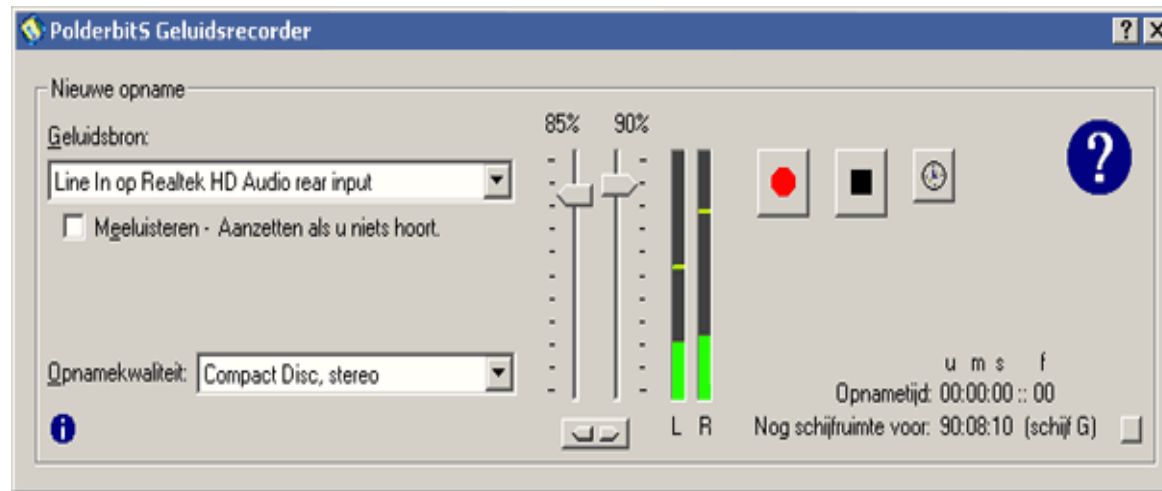
streaming: With *live streaming* you listen to a broadcast in real time, as on the radio. You cannot download, save nor edit any of these files just like that. You need to record them first.

USB (flash) drive: external medium that can be plugged into one of your USB access gates and acts like a small internal drive.



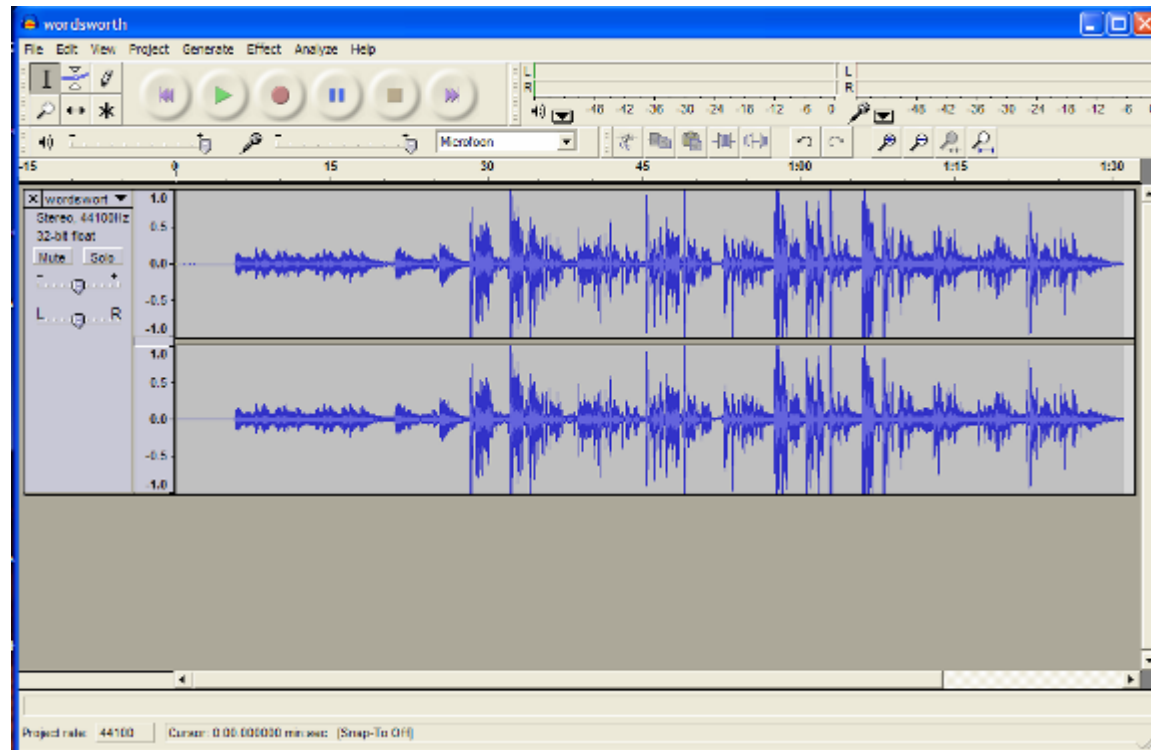
Teachers find it difficult to select good sound files on the level that they need. And yet, there are lots of excellent materials on the Internet. How can you find, record, play and edit these files and save them on a CD or on a USB drive, ready for class use?

- 1 First check which **players** you have on your PC. *Windows Media Player*, *Macromedia Flash*, *Real Player*, *Winamp* and *Quicktime* may be needed in order to listen to downloaded sound files. With the player *Winamp* you can burn your downloaded files on a CD.
If your default (standard) audio player does not allow you to open a sound file, download the file and put it on your hard disk. Open another player and try listening to your file.
- 2 Sound files are often in MP3, WMA or WAV formats. Wikipedia saves its sound files in yet another format: *Ogg Vorbis*. These files can be opened by means of *Real Player*. When you have opened a sound file, you can record it while listening. This can be done by means of a **recorder** like *Audacity* or *Polderbits*. These tools enable you to record all the sounds that are produced on your PC, irrespective of their source. A recorder enables you to record (live) streams and save them so that you can play them later.





Example recorder Polderbits

- 3 Once your sound file has been recorded you can use an **editor** in order to select sound extracts, fade in/out, and save your extracts on a USB drive or on a CD. When saving you can decide on the quality of your extract. If you choose a low quality, you will need less memory but the sounds may be distorted, which you hear in the s-sounds. If you select a better quality, your file will take more space on your drive. WAV files are of a high quality and take more space than MP3 or *Ogg Vorbis* files. For sound files with spoken texts you will need to select a minimal MP3 speed of 12,000 Hz (Herz), 32 kbs (kilobytes per second).



Example recorder and editor Audacity

- 4 You can download your players by clicking on on these URLs. They are free.

<p>Flash Macromedia 8 (player, gratis) http://www.macromedia.com/software/flash/about/</p>	
<p>Real Player (player, gratis) http://netherlands.real.com/player/</p>	

iTunes (player, gratis) http://www.apple.com/itunes/download/	
Winamp (player, gratis) http://www.winamp.com/	
Quicktime (videoplayer, gratis) http://developer.apple.com/quicktime/download/	
Polderbits (recorder/editor, 29 euro) http://www.polderbits.nl/index.html	
Audacity (recorder/editor, gratis) http://audacity.sourceforge.net/	

- 5 How do you find sound files? Have a look at the selection below. You can also look up sound files on the MP3/Audio search option of Altavista. Check the websites of papers, magazines, radio and TV broadcasting companies.

Take standard legal conditions on copyright into account, even with *streaming* or *podcasting*.

Sound files

Where do I find them?

sites		scripts	players
1 BBC learn English	aso/tso/bsa	yes	Real Player, Flash
2 BBC radio	aso/tso/bsa		Real Player
3 University Franche Comté	aso/tso/bsa		Real Player, Flash
4 Nature	science	yes	Quick Time
5 The New York Times	aso/bsa/tso		iTunes
6 The History Channel	aso/bsa/tso		Real Player
7 The British Library	aso/bsa/tso		Windows Media Player
8 Theatre Voice	aso		Flash
9 Sound Portraits	aso	yes	Real Player
10 ESL Pod	bsa/tso	yes	Real Player
11 Video Library	bsa/tso		Flash
12 About	aso/bsa/tso		iTunes

1 BBC Learning English

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/index.shtml>

BBC Learn English is a high quality site with sound files and movies on films, media, social issues and local attractions on various levels. It's a site with a host of listening exercises on various aspects of British life. Select the *Watch and Listen* option. You can download scripts and listening exercises. Real Player.



1.1 BBC London

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/multimedia/london/unit1/index.shtml>

British sound files on London, on transport, cinema, shopping, work and eating out, supplemented by exercises on skills and functions like asking tickets, booking, checking in at the reception, talking about work conditions,... Intermediate level. No registration is needed. Flash or Real Player.

1.2 BBC pronunciation

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/multimedia/pron/index.shtml>

Focussed training on pronunciation and minimal pairs. Listen to the vowel chart, the use of schwa, various tricky sounds and spelling with exercises at beginner's and intermediate level. No registration is needed. Flash 6 or MP3.

2 BBC

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

This site gives access to current and former BBC programmes. There is a UK version and an International one. Find information on the news, sports, weather, local information, science, entertainment. Videonews is available. No registration is needed. All levels. Real Player, streaming.

Accessibility help
Text only
Mobile/PDAs

BBC home ☐ UK version ☒ International version | About the versions

Explore

Explore [bbc.co.uk](#)

All of the BBC ☒ The Web ☐

Other people are searching for:

- [history](#)
- [music](#)
- [weather](#)

See what's popular and new

Browse

News

Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Middle East, South Asia, UK, Business, Science/Nature, Technology, Entertainment, [News in 33 Languages...](#)

Sport

Football, Cricket, Rugby Union, Tennis, Motorsport...

Radio

World Service, Programme A-Z, World Service Schedules...

Radio in the UK [Radio 1](#), [Radio 2](#), [Radio 3](#),

News

Monday 12 June 2006, 10:26 GMT 11:26 UK



Dead detainee 'was to be freed'

One of three Guantanamo detainees who killed themselves was due to be freed, a US lawyer says.

- Profile: Guantanamo Bay
- Suicides: Your comments
- Press condemns 'violations'

Watch/Listen to BBC News | [What is RSS?](#)

OTHER HEADLINES

- Cyprus row hits EU-Turkey talks
- Passenger train derails in Israel

Sport



Legend Keane announces retirement

- Rooney may play against Trinidad

Watch/Listen to BBC Sport | [What is RSS?](#)

News in 33 languages

عربي	فارسي
中文	हिन्दी
РУССКИЙ	اردو
MUNDO	TIẾNG VIỆT
BRASIL	SOMALI

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Don't miss



The week ahead

What could be grabbing the headlines in the next seven days



Underground life

3 University Franche-Comté

http://cla.univ-fcomte.fr/english/sites/index_a.htm

http://cla.univ-fcomte.fr/english/listen_index.htm

A very useful site with exercises on pronunciation, songs, audio and video dictations, movie trailers, telephone simulations, fairy tales,... in all kinds of Englishes. Flash.

3.1 Dictations beginners

<http://cla.univ-fcomte.fr/english/dictations/rodspeople/begsindex.htm>

Twenty easy dictations.

3.2 Video dictations

<http://cla.univ-fcomte.fr/english/dictations/realenglish/realindex.htm>

Easy, funny video dictations and listening tests on telling the time, talking about the weather,... Real Player.

3.3 Eight Fairy Tales

<http://cla.univ-fcomte.fr/english/precocce/stories/storiesindex.htm>

With comprehension exercises building up the scripts. Streaming. Flash. Hosts a Cambridge dictionary.

3.4 Easy telephone dictations

<http://cla.univ-fcomte.fr/english/dictations/telephone/telephone.htm>

With exercises. Beginner's level. Streaming. Flash.

4 Nature

<http://www.nature.com/nature/podcast/index.html>



Excellent site on *Nature*, a science journal. The site holds a number of high-level radio programmes on various science topics like chromosomes, hurricanes, evolution, medical discoveries ... Easily accessible materials as no registration is needed. Both British and American accents. And you find full scripts along with your listening materials! MP3.

5 The New York Times podcasts

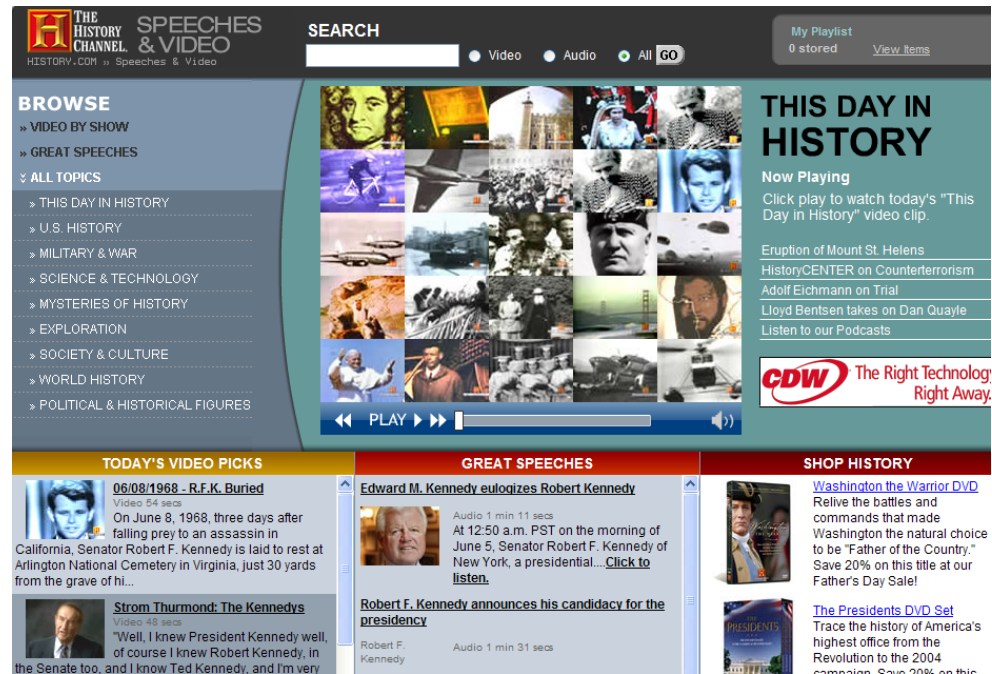
<http://www.nytimes.com/ref/multimedia/podcasts.html>

The New York Times multimedia and photos page contains news on current affairs, music, science, letters to the publisher,... No registration is needed but you need to listen by means of *iTunes* with most of the files.

6 The History Channel

<http://www.historychannel.com/broadband/home/>

Excellent audio and video materials on historical events - the way the Americans see them-, famous speeches, mysteries from history, etc. There's a snag: the viewer needs to watch a 30-second ad before viewing the movies. Movies have no scripts but abstracts. Real Player.



7 The British Library

7.1 Accents and dialects

<http://www.collectbritain.co.uk/collections/dialects/>

650 extracts in accents and regional dialects with glossaries and interview summaries. Free and no registration needed. The level is probably too high for our pupils. Windows Media Player, streaming.



7.2 Sound Archive

<http://www.bl.uk/collections/sound-archive/nsa.html>

With 3 ½ million recordings on oral history, literature, historical recordings. Finding an extract is cumbersome and you need to pay for it. Some sound files are free however.

8 Theatre voice

<http://www.theatrevoice.com/>

A site with theatre reviews. Look at the archive and listen to reviews of current plays. Flash 6, no registration needed. Streaming.

9 Sound Portraits

<http://soundportraits.org/>

Sound Portraits has long interviews with mainly African American and Hispanic young people. They talk about US social issues and recent history, on executions, segregation, ghettos, young criminals, religious apparitions, gay people, addicts,... Full scripts are provided. Look under on-line. No registration needed. Streaming, Real Player.

SOUND PORTRAITS.ORG
[on-air](#) | [in-print](#) | [about](#) | [education](#) | [funding](#) | [store](#)

[e-mail](#) [page](#)

special projects

radio documentaries

StoryCorps

Inspiring Americans to collect one another's stories in sound.
Participate at [StoryCorps.net](#).


My Lobotomy
A groundbreaking documentary narrated by Howard Dully, a patient who received an "ice pick" lobotomy at age 12.

company news

→ Matt Kennedy, born more than a century ago in Coney Island, Brooklyn, spent his childhood reveling in Coney Island's wonders, and his adulthood fighting against its decline. In 1990, Dave Isay interviewed Matt Kennedy for a short documentary. Mr. Kennedy died on March 22nd, having lived to see his efforts rewarded by Coney Island's current renaissance. [Click here](#) to listen.


Ghetto Life 101
The audio diaries of LeAlan Jones and Lloyd Newman, two young boys living in one of the most notorious public housing projects in America.


The Sunshine Hotel
A journey into one of the few remaining flophouses on the Bowery in New York City, led by Nathan Smith, the hotel's longtime manager.

10 ESL pod

<http://www.eslpod.com/website/index.php>

Latest Podcasts



SUNDAY - JUNE 11, 2006

[ESL Podcast 172 - Legal Problems](#)



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[Learning Guide](#)

Got problems with the law? Find out about having legal troubles on this podcast.

Tags: [Daily Life](#)



FRIDAY - JUNE 09, 2006

[ESL Podcast 171 - Buying a Used Car](#)



[Listen](#)



[Learning Guide](#)

Want to buy a used car? Learn how in this podcast.

Tags: [Daily Life](#), [Shopping](#)



WEDNESDAY - JUNE 07, 2006

[English Cafe 36](#)



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[Learning Guide](#)

Topics: Popular words in the US media, People Magazine's Sexiest Man Alive, to make a spectacle of yourself, to go berserk, basically, "I'm whooped," doozy, fault vs. defect vs. error, David versus Goliath

Tags: [English Café](#)



MONDAY - JUNE 05, 2006

[ESL Podcast 170 - Questions and Answers at a Presentation](#)



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[Learning Guide](#)

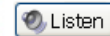
In this podcast, learn how to answer questions at a presentation at work.

Tags: [Business](#)



FRIDAY - JUNE 02, 2006

[ESL Podcast 169 - Describing People's Looks](#)



[Listen](#)



[Learning Guide](#)



What do you look like? Find out how to describe people on today's podcast.

Tags: [Relationships](#), [Daily Life](#)

Educational site on intermediate level with learning guide (incl. scripts) with each podcast. The subjects are really practical: marriage, paying bills, flirting, answering machine messages,.. American accents and American promotional style. Real Player.

<http://video.about.com/>


Very useful library of short videos on health, fashion, design, cars, gadgets, electronic devices, gardening and home, medication, design, how to-topics, film and music. American accents. Macromedia Flash Player.

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<http://weblogs.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?zi=1/XJ&sdn=weblogs&zu=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.podcastingnews.com%2Fforum%2Flinks.php>

The educational site *About* publishes directories with podcasts, cast by various users. The podcasts need to be opened by means of iTunes and are listed under headings like government, books, entertainment, sports, health, social science, spirituality...

12.1 Short conversations and quizzes

<http://esl.about.com/od/englishlistening/>
<http://esl.about.com/od/listeningquizzes/>

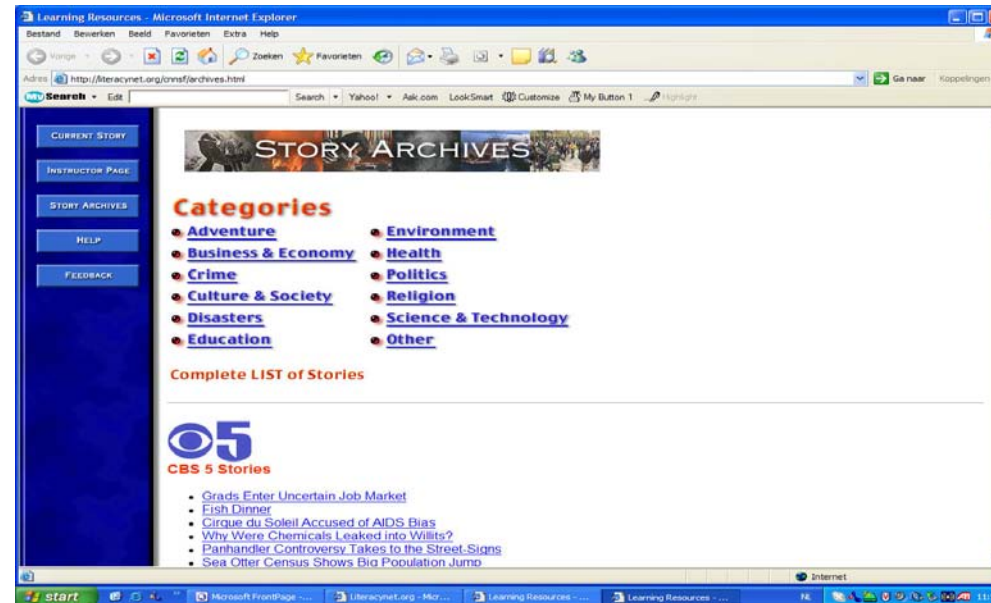
Short conversations on surveys, job interviews, trips, pronunciation, sales, reservations, time, numbers, minimal pairs, family, food, introducing yourself, daily routines,... mostly at beginner's level with matching listening exercises. American English. Real Player.

READING

1 Literacy.net

<http://literacyworks.org/learningresources/>

Useful site for developing reading skills. Go to the Archives page, which offers stories from CNN and CB. Each story is supported by audio and video materials, outlines, various vocabulary exercises, comprehension and skills supplementary exercises.



2 Breaking the News

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/>

Current events lesson plans on two levels. Impressive.

VIDEO

There is an increasing amount of video materials on the web. The One Computer Classroom (see IT) allows you to project these movie clips in the classroom. The largest movie database is probably Youtube. Here are some guidelines which teach you how insert a Youtube movie into a Powerpoint and what types of movies can be found.

How to download a Youtube movie clip?

1. Download the last RealPlayer (11, basic) from <http://netherlands.real.com/player/win/>. Free.
2. Download WinFF (free video converter) from <http://www.winff.org/> Free.
3. Go to *Youtube* and choose a videoclip on <http://nl.youtube.com/>. You needn't register.
4. Click on *Download This Video* (top right above the movie). The film will be downloaded into your automatically generated file *Real Player Downloads*. Find this subdirectory in your Windows *Videos* directory.

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How to make Pancakes from Scratch

[Download This Video](#)



Dit is een videoreactie op [Brad's Organic Apple Pancake Recipe](#)

Rate: ★★★★★
28 beoordelingen

Aantal keren bekeken: 8994

✉ Delen

♥ Favorieten

📄 Afspeellijsten

🚩 Markeren

✉ E-mailen

📺 NUjj

👤 Hyves

(meer)



Van: **Tititias**

Lid geworden: 8 maanden geleden

Video's: 30

Abonneren

Toegevoegd: 2 oktober 2007 [\(Meer info\)](#)

Sand dollar pancakes, they are very light and s...

Insluiten

[Aanpassen](#)

<object width="425" height="355"><param name="movie" value="http://

► Meer van: Tititias

▼ Gerelateerde video's



[How To Make Homemade Pancakes](#)

02:27 Van: a1angiem

Aantal keren bekeken: 10477



[How to make pancakes.](#)

01:01 Van: TropinOleg

Aantal keren bekeken: 2268



[how to make pancakes](#)

06:38 Van: Schnuffchen

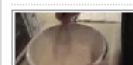
Aantal keren bekeken: 7397



[How to Make Pancakes!](#)

07:17 Van: 00koyuki00

Aantal keren bekeken: 5740

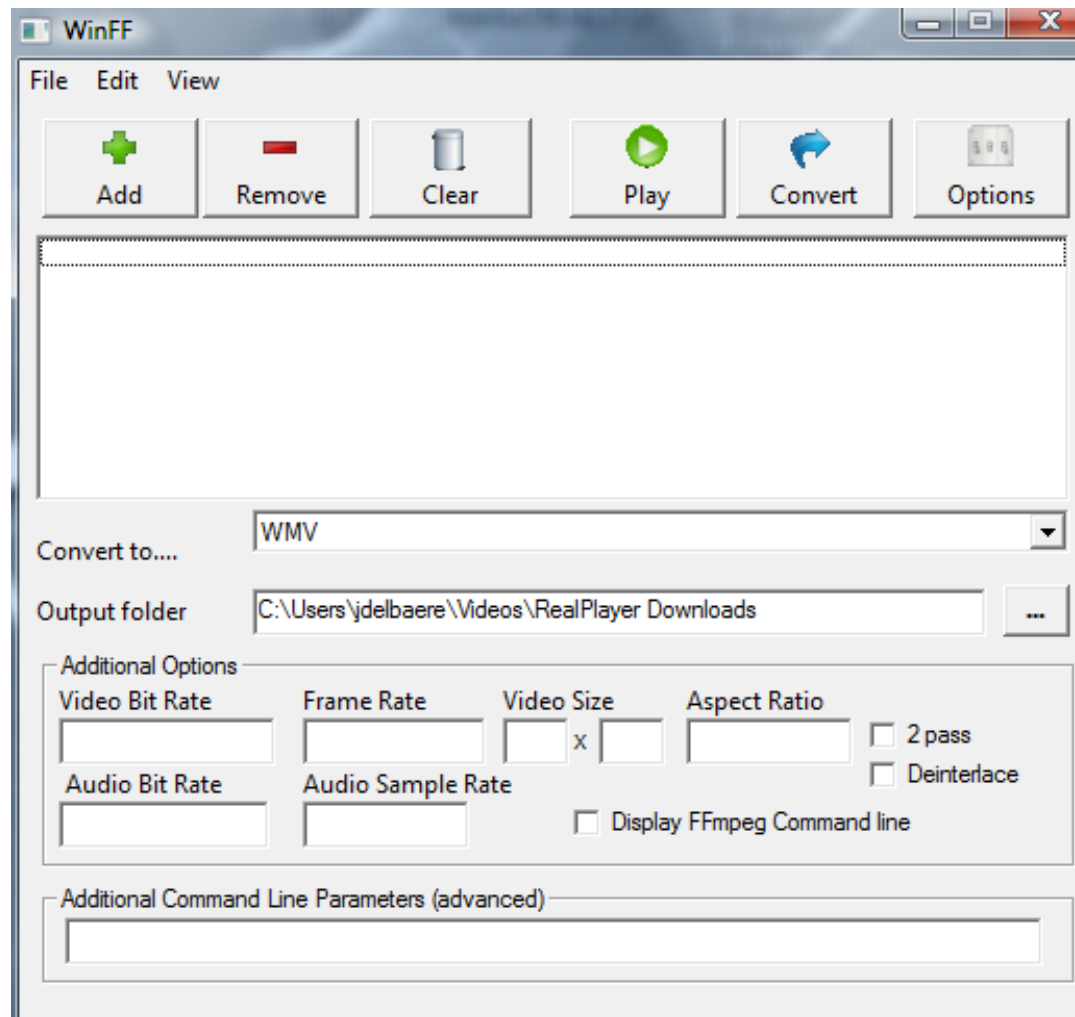


[How to Make Pancakes](#)

05:43 Van: Jacacapoo

Aantal keren bekeken: 34292

5. Open WinFF.



6. Click on *Add* (green plus) and select the downloaded film in your *Real Player Downloads* directory.

7. Select *WMV* in the *Convert to* window as in the example above.

8. Click on *Convert* (blue arrow).
9. Wait a minute until a black conversion window disappears from the screen.
10. Open *Powerpoint*.
11. Insert the film in (*Film uit bestand*). Make sure you insert the clip from .WMV extension from your *Real Player Downloads*.



12. When you copy your Powerpoint presentation onto a USB stick or other medium, make sure that the videoclip with .WMV-extension is copied as well and is put in the same directory as your Powerpoint!

Some [Youtube](#) examples

Working with movie clips, an example (Preparing a debate, using an Amnesty International clip from *Youtube* on death penalty)

1. 1 Writing and speaking

- Watch the movie clip.
- Guess for whom this movie clip was made.

- Guess the situation in which the clip was made.
- What did the maker want to express? What is the 'message' of the movie clip?
- Why is this clip appealing or interesting to you?
- Writing: List the arguments against death penalty from the movie clip.
- Speaking: Say and explain whether you (dis)agree with these arguments.

1. 2 Worksheet

Global listening comprehension: **Death Penalty** (Jeremy Irons) Name:

There are seven or eight arguments against death penalty. List them and say what you think of each of them.

arguments against death penalty	your opinion on them

Explain the pun in the word 'capital'