

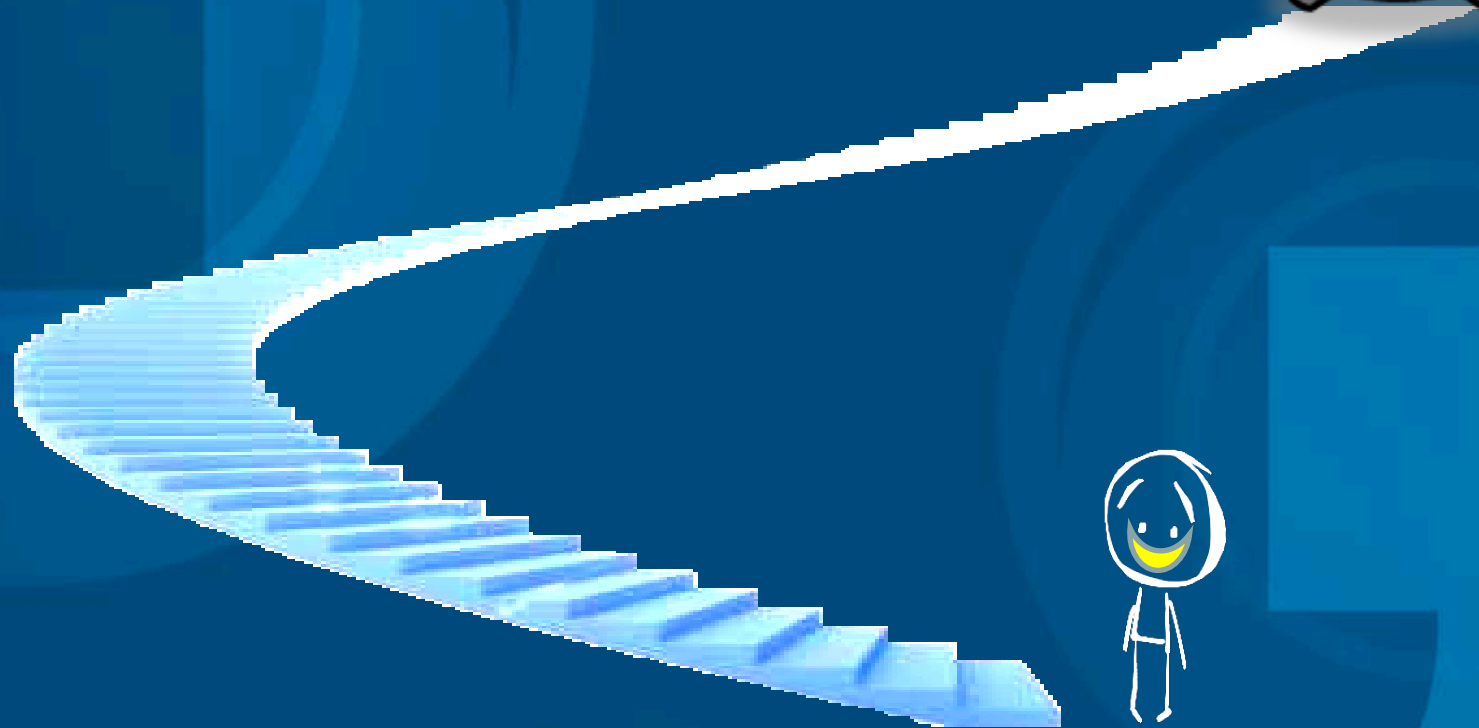
Bridging the Authenticity Gap

Steve Oakes

The SLTAS questionnaire (Ely 1994)

Write a number from 1-5 (1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree)

- a) When I read something in English, I feel impatient when I don't totally understand the meaning.
- b) It bothers me that I don't understand everything the teacher says in English.
- c) When I write English compositions, I don't like it when I can't express my ideas exactly.
- d) I don't like the feeling that my English pronunciation is not quite correct.



Ambiguity tolerance (AT): What does research say?

- The 'good learner'

Characteristics of a Good Learner

(Rubin and Thompson)

1. Good learners find their own way
2. Good learners organize information about language
3. Good learners are creative and experiment with language
4. Good learners make their own opportunities, and find strategies for getting practice in using the language inside and outside the classroom
5. Good learners learn to live with uncertainty and develop strategies for making sense of the target language without wanting to understand every word .
6. Good learners use mnemonics
7. Good learners make errors work
8. Good learners use linguistic knowledge, including knowledge of their first language
9. Good learners let the context help them in comprehension
10. Good learners learn to make intelligent guesses
11. Good learners learn chunks of language as wholes and formalized routines
12. Good learners learn achievement techniques
13. Good learners learn different styles of speech and writing and learn to vary their language according to the formality of the situation.

Characteristics of a Good Learner

(Rubin and Thompson)

5. Good learners learn to live with uncertainty and develop strategies for making sense of the target language without wanting to understand every word.

Ambiguity tolerance (AT): What does research say?

- The 'good learner'
- Greater persistence
- Higher level of achievement
- More openness to new language

I like	pizza my mom.
I don't like	fizzy water. dogs.

I **like** walking in the park and listening to music on my MP3 player...

I like walking in the park and listening to music on my MP3 player...

Ambiguity tolerance (AT): What does research say?

- The 'good learner'
- Greater persistence
- Higher level of achievement
- More openness to new language
- More risk taking
- Higher scores in cloze, reading, and listening tests

The image features four balloons arranged horizontally against a dark blue background with faint, stylized circular patterns. The balloons alternate in color: red, dark purple, red, and dark purple from left to right. Each balloon contains white text. The first red balloon contains the text 'Ambiguity tolerance'. The first dark purple balloon contains the text 'Learner's capacity to develop'. The second red balloon contains the text 'Exposure to authentic material'. The second dark purple balloon contains the text 'Listening skills'.

Ambiguity
tolerance

Learner's
capacity
to develop

Exposure
to
authentic
material

Listening
skills



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The Impact of Authentic Listening Materials on Elementary EFL Learners' Listening Skills

... materials to fill the cited gaps in Iranian context. There have been controversial ideas based on studies in dealing with authentic listening materials. Their results ranged from totally abstention to completely utilizing. This study intends to investigate the impact of authentic listening materials on listening skills of Elementary students of

students who were exposed to authentic materials performed better

Besides students feedback survey was given to experimental group to evaluate their attitudes and opinions regarding the materials. Analysis of quantitative study and comparing the mean scores of two groups via t-test showed that students who were exposed to authentic materials performed better in posttest. The analysis of feedback survey also denoted their satisfaction and positive attitudes to authentic listening materials.

satisfaction and positive attitudes to authentic listening material

(1997, cited in Schmitt, 2002) puts: "listening involves making sense of spoken language, normally accompanied by other sounds and visual input, with help of our relevant prior knowledge and the context in which we are listening". As it is clear from the above-mentioned quotation, it is not a one-layered phenomenon, but an amalgamation of related process in which remained unnoticed for first language acquisition due to its natural and effortless nature. Krashen (1987) states in his input hypothesis, that the role of listening for acquisition is undeniable. However, unlike its importance role, it is a so-called "Cinderella skill" (Nunan, 1997, p.47) in EFL situation, receiving only slight emphasis in instruction. Traditionally listening was considered as a "passive process, in which our ears were receivers into which information was poured..." (Schmitt2002:193). Having been demystified those unjustly-neglected simplistic views, (myth) nowadays, it is regarded, as Schmitt (2002) aptly argued, a "... active, interpretive process". It is often assumed that listening could be acquired through exposure rather than teaching. That's why, maneuvering on this domain is really a worth-while process in applied linguistics and in related disciplines in new millennium. Ever since the advent of communicative approaches in teaching, lots of efforts have been made by material developers and educational policy makers to



Principles

of selecting/using authentic video at low levels

Personally engaging



Less focus on language

'Enough' accessible language



Listening skill + AT ↑

Low demand 1st task



More authentic interaction

DVD PREVIEW

1A Complete the holiday questionnaire. Tick the sentences that are true for you.

- On holiday, I always:
- read about the place.
 - take bus tours.
 - take a lot of photos.
 - go out in the evenings.
 - relax and do nothing.

B Work in pairs and compare your answers.

2 Read the programme information. Are sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Little Britain is funny.
- 2 A woman plays the tour guide Carol.
- 3 Carol is friendly.
- 4 This episode is in Spain.

BBC Little Britain Abroad

The BBC comedy show *Little Britain* is about British people in typical situations. Carol Beer (the actor David Williams) is often on the show. Carol is always bored and is usually rude to people. In this episode, she is a tour guide for a group of British tourists on holiday in Majorca, Spain.

DVD VIEW

3A Work in pairs and look at the photos. Which woman is Carol?



DVD VIEW

3A Work in pairs and look at the photos. Which woman is Carol?



B Watch the DVD to check your answer.

speaktalk a bad holiday story

4A Work in pairs and look at the pictures. Why did the man have a bad holiday? Use the words/phrases in the box below.

- bored it rained noisy expensive missed the plane



writetalk a holiday story

6A Read the story and underline six positive things.

.....
 Last year we went to Edinburgh on holiday, and I didn't have a good time.
 We took a boat from Dublin to Holyhead in Wales, and then a train to Edinburgh. In Holyhead, we were hungry, so we went to a restaurant in the station. The food was great and the waiter was very nice, but we were there for too long and we missed our train. There were no other trains that day, so we stayed in the station.
 The next day, we arrived in Edinburgh. We were very tired but the weather was good and the place was beautiful. We were happy - for one hour! Our hotel was lovely and the people were friendly, but then I became ill and I was in bed for five days. We were there for one week, it was a very long week.

B Write your own bad holiday story. Use 70-100 words.

C Read other students' stories. Which one was really bad?



Task frames for narrative

Ordering

Correction / TF

Summarising

Tick the correct alternative in each group.

A family

A man

A woman

goes to the market

walks to the river

crosses a bridge

and buys a fish.

and catches a fish.

and catches two fish.

DVD PREVIEW

1A Which words in the box are in the photos?

river falls/waterfall fish bridge boat

B Look at the map. Which countries does the Mekong River cross? Where are the Khone Falls?



C Match the oppo

- 1 wet
- 2 fresh
- 3 difficult
- 4 dangerous
- 5 alive

2 Read the prog
good things and
the man in the pl



Friend An

The BBC se
of people
looks at the life
Rivers are ali
Rivers give us
to go from place
difficult and da
Sam Niang an
family live by t
Mekong River
Khone Falls. T
story of a day i
in the rainy sea

DVD VIEW

3A Watch the DVD. Tick the correct alternative in each group.

A family	goes to the market	and buys a fish.
A man	walks to the river	and catches a fish.
A woman	crosses a bridge	and catches two fish.

B Work in pairs. Watch the DVD again and underline the correct alternative.

- 1 The world is a place of extremes: hot and *frozen/cold*, wet and *fresh/dry*.
- 2 In winter, the dry season, the Falls *are/aren't* very big but in summer, the *rainy/wet* season, they're very dangerous.

speakout a favourite season

4A Think about your favourite season. Why do you like it? Think about:

- holidays • clothes
- activities • weather

B 4.8 Listen to someone talking about her favourite season. Tick the topics she talks about.

C Listen again and tick the key phrases you hear.

keyphrases

My favourite season is (spring/summer/autumn/winter)
I like it because it's...
It's a beautiful season.

writeback a forum reply

6A Read the message from a forum and answer the questions.

- 1 What is Kylie's favourite season?
- 2 Why?
- 3 What is the problem with this season?



Open Question
What is your favourite season and why?

Asked by Jay Green

My favourite season is _____ I like it because I love the cold mornings and the frozen countryside. The trees and the roads are beautiful ... all white and fresh. I know that travelling is difficult but it's not a problem for me. I walk everywhere I also like _____ because I go

Answers (3)

write
use
below.

DVD VIEW

3A Watch the DVD. Tick the correct alternative in each group.

A family	goes to the market	and buys a fish.
A man	walks to the river	and catches a fish.
A woman	crosses a bridge	and catches two fish.

Principles

of selecting/using authentic video at low levels

Personally
engaging



Less focus on
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'Enough' accessible
language



Listening skill + AT ↑

Low demand 1st
task



More authentic
interaction

Heavily 'scaffolded'
2nd task



Recognition &
guessing skills ↑

B Complete sentences 1–6 with words from the box below.

seven
well

~~seven~~ days worked families
well travelled minutes rescue

1 Thirty
under
metre

2 'We are _____ in the shelter,
the 33.

3 The mi
healthy

4 The mi
and wa

5 The tu

6 It was
the mi

7 One by one the miners _____
to the surface.

8 After sixty-nine _____ the
miners were free.

5 The tunnel was finished. The
_____ started.

6 It was eighteen _____ from
the mine to the surface.

B Work in pairs. Watch the DVD again and underline the correct alternative.

1 The world is a place of extremes: hot and *frozen/* cold, wet and *fresh/* dry.

2 In winter, the dry season, the Falls *are/aren't* very big but in summer, the *rainy/wet* season, they're very dangerous.

frozen/dead.

4 Sam Niang fishes. He catches his family's *lunch/* dinner.

5 Tomorrow is a *new/hot* day and Sam Niang will go back to the *river/bridge* to catch fish for his family again.

C Watch the DVD again and number the phrases in the order you hear them.

- a) questions or problems ___
- b) look to your right ___
- c) stop the coach ___
- d) Sunsearchers Holidays 1
- e) Welcome to Spain ___
- f) fun, fun, fun ___
- g) get out ___

DVD PREVIEW

10.4 BANKSY

DVD PREVIEW

DVD VIEW

speakeut a history quiz

writback a history quiz

5.4 GENIUS

DVD PREVIEW

DVD VIEW

speakeut a business idea

writ

BBC Genius

Can an idea be both silly and genius at the same time? That's what the BBC programme Genius is all about. Each week members of the public present their wild and wacky ideas for a new product or service. Hosts Dan Freeman and a celebrity guest hilariously grill each inventor to get to the bottom of the invention, and help the audience decide whether the idea is really genius or not. Tonight's suggestions include a new type of chair where the chimney only needs to sing one note.

Presentation tips

- Prepare and practice your first and last sentences.
- Don't over-rehearse. Be spontaneous, and respond to the audience.
- Make eye contact with your audience.
- Include humour.
- Use visuals to create interest and direct the audience's focus away from you.
- Speak clearly, don't mumble.

10.4 THE GREAT MELT

DVD PREVIEW

DVD VIEW

speakeut an endangered

1. Read about the BBC documentary. Why do you think life gets difficult for the polar bears?



BBC Nature's Great Events: The Great Melt

This BBC nature documentary, narrated by Sir David Attenborough, shows how the changes when the Arctic ice melts in the summer. This is the greatest seasonal change on the planet. During the long winter, the sun never rises, and temperatures plummet to minus 40 degrees. When the ice melts in the summer, the landscape changes completely. But life gets difficult for the polar bears.

2. Watch the programme and answer the questions.
 1. Why are the melting ice a problem for the polar bear?
 2. Is the problem worse than it was in the past?
 3. Complete the sentences using the words in the box below.

- ice, fader, seas, frozen, summer, sea, islands
1. The Northern Lights _____ across the sky.
 2. Polar bears are in their element, hunting for seals on the frozen _____.
 3. In February, the sea _____ for the first time in four months.
 4. At its height of _____ even the permanent ice-caps are touched by the driver of the sun.
 5. Over 2.5 million square miles of ice have melted away, uncovering thousands of _____ surrounded by open oceans.

6. Another bear and her adolescent cub rest on a fragment of _____.

7. If sea levels are as extreme as this one, bears like Dora may either starve or _____ lost at sea.

8. Work in groups and discuss.

1. Do you think man can do anything to improve the situation? What?
2. Do you think television programmes like the help in change the situation? How?

3. Discuss. What do you look for in a hotel?

4. A Good evening, can I help you?

5. Yes, I have a reservation. My name's Peter.

6. As you. Could you spell that?

7. Yes, it's please.

1.4 FAWLTY TOWERS

DVD PREVIEW

DVD VIEW

speakeut at a hotel

writback an email to a hotel

1. Look at the photo and read the programme information. Who are the people in the photo?



BBC Fawlty Towers

Fawlty Towers is a hotel in a BBC TV comedy. The manager's name is Basil Fawlty and he's married to Sybil. Polly and Manuel work at the hotel. Polly is British and Manuel is Spanish. Manuel speaks a little English but he sometimes has his translations. The hotel is terrible, and Basil often gets angry with his staff and guests!

2A. Match the words in the box with pictures A-H.

In A restaurant: stairs, keyboard, reception, internet connection, room service, parking.

A B C D

E F G H

B. Work in pairs and take turns. Student A: point to a picture above. Student B: say the word.
 C. Discuss. What do you look for in a hotel?

3A. Watch the DVD. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1. Manuel speaks English.
 2. The mouse speaks English.
 3. The Major is surprised.
 4. Basil Fawlty is angry.
- B. Watch again and underline the word you hear in the sentences.
1. Hello/Hi are you, sir?
 1. I speak English/good/well.
 1. I learn it from a book/book.
 4. Hello, Major. How are you OK/Today?
 5. Yes, that's fine, thank you.
 6. That's a remarkable comment/stoppage you have there, Fawcety.
 7. Oh 12/OK/12, I think.
 8. Canadian/American, I think, Major.



4A. Look at the key phrases below. Who says them? Write guest (G) or receptionist (R) next to each phrase.

keyphrases
 Good evening, can I help you? R
 Yes, I have a reservation. For two nights?
 What's your family name?
 Could you spell that?
 You're in room 417.
 This is your keycard.
 What time's breakfast?

B. 134. Listen and check.
 C. Listen again and write the guest's name and telephone number.
 Guest: _____
 Phone: _____

5. Work in pairs and take turns to role-play the situation. Student A: you are the receptionist. Welcome the guest and complete the hotel registration form. Student B: you are the guest. Answer the receptionist's questions.

HOTEL REGISTRATION

Family name: _____
 First name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____
 Number of nights: _____

A: Good evening, can I help you?
 B: Yes, I have a reservation. My name's Peter.
 A: As you. Could you spell that?
 B: Yes, it's please.

6A. Number the phrases in the correct order in the email below.

Flamencostel@flamencostel.com

from 15th November, Regards,
 Thank you in advance, for two nights
 Please reply, Dear Sir or Madam,
 to this email address, for one person
 Jamie McDonald

I would like to reserve a room

B. Write an email to book a room. Decide where and how many nights you want to stay. Choose one of the cities and hotels below.

- New York / The Hilton
- Edinburgh / Castle Inn & Breakfast
- Sydney / The Ritz



A Speakout BBC podcast

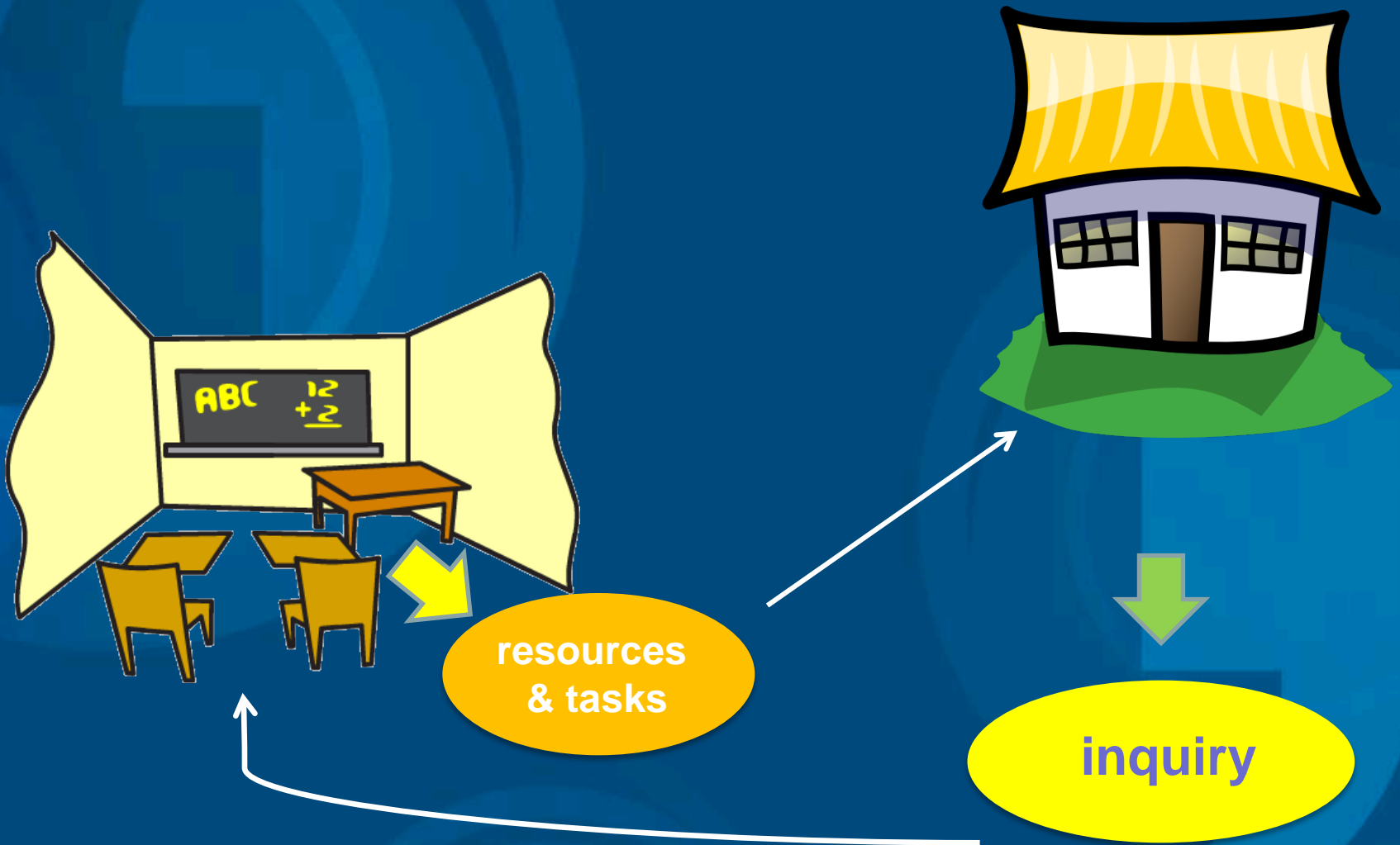


Do you have a healthy lifestyle?



I do like to keep a balance, so try and eat some fruit and vegetables every day but have some coffee on occasion or some chocolate if I feel like it.

M2: I think my exercise routine means I get to do quite a lot of physical activity.
M3: Yeah, I think it's good for your health. First of all, it's good for your heart. I eat a lot of fruit and vegetables, but I also eat some of my own stuff as well.
W2: I think it's important to eat healthy. I eat a lot of fruit and vegetables, but I also eat some of my own stuff as well. I like to eat chocolate if I feel like it.
W3: I think it's important to eat healthy because, because I try to maintain a balance between diet and exercise.
W4: Generally, I think it's important to eat healthy. I eat a lot of fruit and vegetables, but I also eat some of my own stuff as well. I like to eat chocolate if I feel like it.
F: What do you do to stay healthy? I eat a lot of fruit and vegetables, but I also eat some of my own stuff as well. I like to eat chocolate if I feel like it.
M1: I do a lot of exercise. I'm an athlete.
M2: Exercise is more important to me than eating healthily. I know I should eat better.



Thank you!

Steve Oakes

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