



Overview		
 英语趣配音	Title	英语趣配音-看电影玩配音练口语 (English Fun Dubbing)
	Producers	Hangzhou Feizhu Technology Co., Ltd
	Minimal Requirement	iOS 8.0 or later, compatible with iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Android 4.0.3 and up
	System Language	English, Simplified Chinese
	Target Language	English
	Target Audience	English language learners, Chinese University Students
	Cost	Free
<i>Reviewed by Siying Li & John I. Liontas</i> University of South Florida		

Ask yourself this: Who does not want to learn a second language in a fun and relaxing way? Everyone, right? Yet many learners appear to have negative attitudes toward learning another language. Some even treat language learning as tedious work because they are not being appositely motivated. This does not have to be so! *English Fun Dubbing* is both a mobile and tablet application that enhances English language learners' motivation and engagement through dubbing activities with thousands of well-selected clips from authentic English films and animations. This app is based on previous research evidence indicating that motivated language learners will learn another language faster and better (Gardner, 1999; Gass & Selinker, 2008; Ushioda, 2003). As English film/animations are originally designed for entertainment, they can most definitely stimulate L2 learners' interests in the target language and make English learning easily comprehensible in a fun and relaxing way. Through the dubbing of favorite characters, their rich and exciting sound and moving images notwithstanding, app users can self-correct their utterances, thereby making important progress in English pronunciation, intonation, and fluency. Doing so enables them to maximize their English vocabulary base and also enhance their cultural competence.

To begin with, 英语趣配音-看电影玩配音练口语 (*English Fun Dubbing*) is free and easy to access. After downloading the app, users are asked to create an online account. Upon completion of account creation, users can then begin their dubbing practices. New clips of videos are uploaded every day. Source materials are chosen from popular American/British films, TV series, animations, music videos, interviews and reality TV shows, and so on. The average length of each video clip is around two to three minutes (the longest clip is six minutes, the shortest ten seconds). Popular video clips, constantly updating, are presented on the home page. Users can also customize their choice of videos by choosing from the many English levels available: rudimentary, primary, intermediate, advanced, or professional. Following level selection,

the application background management system automatically presents video clips that match the level selected. Users can also search for specific scenes via the search button.

The question remains: How is the dubbing experience? Answer: It is absolutely fascinating! Indeed, immersing oneself in a character's world, feeling his/her emotions, and attempting to imitate the way one speaks is an interesting and exhilarating adventure. Equally, it is easy to get started. No matter the length of the video chosen, each video in turn is divided into several segments, each segment containing one or two sentences. Depending on sentence length, users have the opportunity to listen to the original dubbing of each segment again and again to practice tone, pronunciation, stress, and intonation until they feel fluent enough to record their voices by tapping the green microphone button shown in Figure 1. Following the dubbing of each sentence, comparisons can then be made and users can self-correct as necessary. This is Step 1.

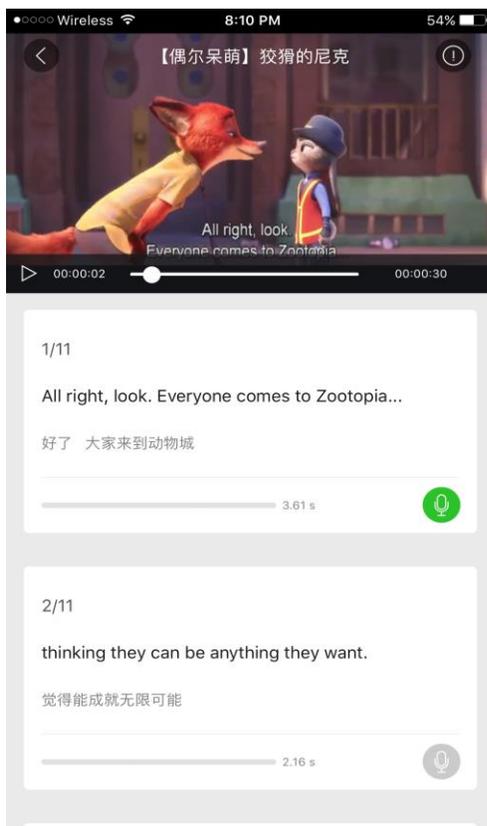


Figure 1: Step 1 screen shot – dubbing sentence by sentence



Figure 2: Step 3 screen shot – the previewing finished video dubbed

Step 2 is to finish dubbing the rest of the sentences. When all sentences are dubbed—Step 3—the system automatically generates a finished version with the learner’s dubbing while preserving original images and soundtracks of selected scenes. Users can preview the video and also receive a preliminary score the application system computes concerning users’ accuracy, fluency, and completeness of dubbing, as shown in Figure 2. If users wish to receive even richer evaluations, they can apply for VIP membership. Depending on membership length selected, additional membership costs are calculated. Important to note here is that users can either save their videos to local files or upload and share them with families and friends via popular social network applications such as *WeChat*, *QQ*, or *Microblog*. In addition, users can share and communicate with other users via the app’s social network platform. They can, for example, form discussion groups, conduct collaborative group dubbing practices, and exchange ideas on how to make improvements on future dubbings. Moreover, ranking lists featuring the most trendy dubbing videos, videos with highest scores, and best performers of dubbing videos, respectively, including built-in access links to all videos, are also available for individual perusal.

For teachers teaching English as a foreign or second language, the *English Fun Dubbing* app provides a novel way to facilitate language learners’ motivation while concomitantly enhancing their linguistic and cultural competence. Teachers can also offer corrective feedback to students as necessary. Importantly, they can provide further instructions on specific syntactic and lexical structures and clarify, where needed, the cultural backgrounds of select video clips. These positive attributes aside, the app leaves much room for improvement in future updates. For example, the operation panel is in Chinese, thus making it quite challenging for non-Chinese users to operate despite the fact that all dubbings are in English. Moreover, a more thoughtful division of video categories—animations, films, TV shows—would alleviate sporadic searches of video clips of different dialects of English (American or British) thrown together. Ultimately, if language learners desire to improve their English, more specifically their pronunciation and intonation, then *English Fun Dubbing* is a great option indeed. A great many dubbing sessions await those willing to do so in a fun and relaxing way.

Mic drop please!

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