

Building the Vocabulary

7

In this session you will:

1. analyse documents to teach *NaturallySpeaking* new words
2. use *NaturallySpeaking* to read and complete a comprehension exercise.

Getting started

1. Put the microphone on
2. Start up *NaturallySpeaking* and select your voice file

Analyse documents

NaturallySpeaking knows a lot of words, but it doesn't have every word in its dictionary. To save you adding all the new words you might need one by one, it can add new words to the dictionary from files already on the computer.

When *NaturallySpeaking* analyses the document, it not only adds new words, but also adapts the user's voice model to the style of the text. This means it is better at recognising text because it will "know" about the topic you are writing about.

Before tackling a piece of writing on a particular topic - such as the Stewart Kings, or magnetism - you can run text about the topic through the *NaturallySpeaking* document analyser so that any new words or phrases are added.

1. Click [Tools > Accuracy Centre > Add words from your documents to the vocabulary](#).
2. Click Next twice to get to the [Analyse documents](#) screen.
3. Click [Add](#), and look for the *Haggis text* file on the *CALL Introducing Speech Recognition in Schools* CD.
4. Open the *plain text* file rather than the *Word RTF* file. The plain one has "lines" on its icon, the RTF one has a "Word" symbol on it.
5. Click on [Analyse documents](#) and *NaturallySpeaking* will analyse the file for new words and style.
6. Click [Next](#) and select the words you want to add to the dictionary. Only add words you are likely to actually use when writing.
7. Click [Record](#) and speak the correct pronunciations for each word. Then click [Done](#).
8. When you are asked if you want to adapt the dictionary to the document style, click [No](#) (so that your dictionary is not adapted to the style in this text file).
9. Click [Finish](#).

Comprehension Activity - Use speech output to read questions, and dictate your answers.

Now open the *Haggis Questions* file on the CALL CD - say "[File](#)", followed by "[Open](#)". Use the computer speech to read the text and the questions. Think about the questions and find the answers in the text. Decide your answer to each question, then switch on the mic and dictate your answer to each question. Remember to answer using a complete sentence, e.g. "*Americans and other visitors to Scotland are often told...*"

Switch off the mic, print and save your file as *MySession7*.

Haggis

Americans and other visitors to Scotland are often told that the haggis is a small three-legged creature that runs around the mountains of Scotland. The haggis is a very well dressed creature, usually wearing a kilt in the family tartan - Royal Stewart is the most commonly seen tartan among the haggises in the Cairngorm mountains but you can also catch an occasional glimpse of a haggis wearing the MacDuff tartan.

The male haggis has its left hind leg longer than its right, which means that it has to run round the mountain in a clockwise direction or else it will fall over and tumble down the mountainside. If a haggis forgets about the leg problem and tries to go the opposite way, it shouts out "gardiloo" as it falls. The female, on the other hand, has a longer right hind leg and therefore runs in an anti-clockwise direction. As a result of the males and females always running round the mountain in opposite directions, they hardly ever meet. During the breeding season visitors to the Highlands can often hear the distinctive wailing cry of the male haggis as he tries to find a mate. The music of the Scottish bagpipes has been inspired by the wail of the haggis.

Haggises have a very limited diet which is why they are only found in Scotland. They eat heather ("fraoch" - spoken as "freuch") and drink water flavoured with berries called irnbru.

Some people say this is a myth - a story made up to confuse tourists. They say that haggis is actually Scotland's national dish, made from the liver, heart and lungs of a sheep, along with oatmeal, onions and spices, all chopped up and wrapped up in a sheep's stomach and then cooked. This seems unlikely to me - I mean, who would ever eat something like that? The idea about the small animal with different legs seems much more believable!

Questions

1. What are Americans and other visitors to Scotland told about the haggis?
2. Which tartans do haggises usually wear?
3. What is the main difference between male and female haggises?
4. What do haggises shout if they fall off the mountain?
5. What was the inspiration for the music of the Scottish bagpipes?
6. What do haggises eat and drink?
7. What are the "real" ingredients of a haggis?

Recap - Dictate a few sentences about what this session has covered: analysing documents to build a vocabulary; using text to speech to read; and dictation to answer questions.

If you have time... - Open a blank document and do some more dictation practice from a piece of work you have written before, or from a textbook. Print and save as MySession7B.

Finish - Switch off the mic and exit. Remove and store the microphone.