

## *Connect with English*

[http://www.learner.org/resources/series71.html#program\\_descriptions](http://www.learner.org/resources/series71.html#program_descriptions)

This free online program is a great way to develop your ability to understand conversational American English. Each episode is 15 minutes long. In all, there are 48 episodes. You need to use a recent version of Internet Explorer, Microsoft Media Player, and a broadband connection (ADSL, etc.). The PC classrooms on campus are fine.

If the direct link above does not work, then try this:

1. Go to <http://www.learner.org/>
2. Click "**View Programs**" [tab at the top of the page]
3. Scroll down to "**Online via video on demand**" and click "**program**"
4. Scroll down to "**Connect with English.**"
5. Click on the video symbol mark **VoD** at the right of the title.
6. To watch these videos online the first time, you need to **sign in**. The "**sign in**" link will appear when you click on the video's title. Fill in the information ("zip code" means *yubin bango*). The second time you want to watch, just type in your e-mail address and password in the "**log in**" boxes.

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### Episode Descriptions (Samples)

- Episode 1: Rebecca's Dream  
The story begins as we meet **Rebecca Casey**, a 28-year-old Boston working woman, who dreams of becoming a singer. We also meet her boyfriend **Matt** who **doesn't think much of** [*doesn't like*] her dream, and her 17-year-old brother, **Kevin**, who **doesn't think much about** [*doesn't consider*] the future at all. Rebecca considers applying for music school and pursuing her career full-time, rather than **holding down a factory job** [*continue working*] and doing her music on the side. We also meet real-life immigrants and students who discuss the similarities between Rebecca's experiences and their own.
- Episode 2: Differences  
Rebecca starts to apply to music schools. Her father, a widowed, disabled firefighter, worries that she is choosing **a chancy career** [*risky, unstable*], and that Kevin is not studying hard enough to graduate. Rebecca's best friend at the factory where she works is **Sandy**, who admires Rebecca, but in her own life, just wants to settle down and raise a family. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.
- Episode 3: A Visit to the Doctor  
Rebecca's **father** has a worrisome checkup from his doctor. He has to eat better and exercise, or face a possible heart attack — advice he ignores. At a Memorial Day barbecue, Rebecca talks to Sandy about Sandy's boyfriend **Jack**, who shows up drunk and **belligerent** [*angry, wanting to fight*]. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.