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TITLE: Adaptive listening: are foreign accents special?

Understanding a second language (L2) speaker is often perceived to be more difficult than understanding a native (L1) speaker. Speech from L2 speakers typically deviates from the standard pronunciation of a target language, i.e., it is foreign-accented, and the deviations can easily obstruct the complex processes of comprehension. Recent research, however, has shown that we can rapidly overcome initial processing difficulties and adapt to foreign-accented speech, both when listening to our native language and when listening to a second language. In this talk I will discuss underlying mechanisms and boundaries of this adaptation process with a special focus on speaker-specific differences in adaptation.