

# Car Radio – Sample Transcript

## Participants

- interviewer (I)
- mother, 45 year old woman (M)
- father, 44 year old man (F)
- child, 11 year-old girl (C1)
- child, 8-year-old girl (C2)

## Transcript

- 00:00:02:06 **I: Introduction:** "Thanks for taking the time to work with me today; I'm going to be tagging along in your car as we go for a ride. I'm primarily focused on understanding the dynamics in the car surrounding the stereo system, so I'm going to be watching as we drive and asking some questions."  
**F:** "No problem, we were just going to go to the Mall".
- 00:00:20:06 **I:** "Great, I always enjoy the mall. Is it OK if I video and audio tape this trip? The results may be shown to an audience, including a class of students at UT".  
**F:** "Oh, that's fine."
- 00:00:36:16 **I:** "Is this a pretty typical day getting into the Suburban?"  
**M:** "We don't usually take the dogs, except on long trips"  
**F:** "That's not accurate; they like to go for the medium sized rides too, like to the mall or when we go to the softball games".
- 00:01:18:26 **I:** "Ok, well, can you describe a little bit about what kind of usage you make of this radio when everyone's here?"  
**M:** "We use it almost all the time we're in the car. When we go to school in the morning we don't usually put it on. OK?"  
**F:** "No."  
**M:** "No?"  
**F:** "We almost always listen to the news on the way to school."  
**M:** "With the kids in the car?"  
**F:** "Yes."  
**C1:** "We usually listen to tapes."
- 00:01:43:01 **M:** "WELL, there's obviously a disagreement about how we usually use this."  
**I [to F]:** "So you're saying that the radio is pretty much on all the time that people are in the car?"  
**F:** "Yes"  
**I [to C1 & C2]:** "And you guys like to listen to tapes?"  
**C2:** "Uh huh."
- 00:02:05:12 **F:** "Well, let's get going ... I think we have some stops to make along the way."  
**M:** [*turns on the car*]
- 00:02:44:10 **M:** "Liza, you wanted to go pick up your ballet pictures, and Laura, you wanted to go look in the bookstore. So we're going to drive a couple of miles away to do a couple of errands."
- 00:02:51:22 **M:** [*starts driving*] "And then what do we do, we turn on the radio" [*presses power button on radio*]
- 00:03:00:20 [*Music comes on, a local jazz radio station*]  
**M:** So normally we \*don't\* listen to this. We usually have the news on or there's a couple of talk shows on NPR that we like. But not at this point. So what would we do?"

10. 00:03:11:12 I: "Yeah, what would you guys want to listen to right now?"  
**C2:** "We'd turn on a tape!"  
**M:** "Whatever's in there?"  
**F:** [*pulls tape out of tape player, looks at the label*]  
**F:** "Do you want to hear 'A Little Night Of Music'?"  
**C2:** "Sure."  
**F:** [*puts tape back in the player*]
11. 00:03:24:00 I: "So is that how you guys usually decide what you are going to listen to, you take a poll in the car?"  
**M:** "We usually let the kids pick pretty much."  
**F:** "No."  
**M:** "No? Gary says no! [*laughs*]"
12. 00:03:41:28 I [*to F*]: "Gary, who usually picks?"  
**F:** "Usually she picks [*looks at wife*]. She usually wants to news or something."  
**C2:** "Mom *always* picks!"
13. 00:04:05:24 I: "OK, so you guys have put a tape in. Are there any special problems that you have when you're trying to use this radio on the road?"  
**F:** "Yeah, one of the problems is trying to figure out which of these buttons is the right button to change the direction of the tape. There's a reverse button which sounds like the right one, but it's not."  
I: "Oh, no, what does the reverse button do?"  
**F:** [*presses the REV button; tape starts rewinding and you can hear the sound of it doing so*]  
**F & M:** "It rewinds!"  
**M:** "But I can never remember that"
14. 00:04:49:44 **F:** "So now the question is: how do you stop it and make it go forward again. And the only way to do that that we've been able to figure out is to eject it and push it back in." [*ejects the tape and pushes it back in*]  
I: "So there's no button on there that's helping us go forward?"  
**F:** "So somebody said that maybe you push it again" [*presses the REV button*] "but that doesn't seem to help."  
I: "What about the button that's labeled 'forward'?"  
**M:** "fast forward"  
I: "Oh, I see. So you guys eject it and push it back in and then it starts playing again."  
**F:** "That's right"
15. 00:05:15:00 I: "Now how easy or difficult is that in this context? Here you are driving along, is that difficult or easy for you?"  
**F:** "It's not too bad when I'm not driving."
16. 00:05:26:46 I: "Oh, that's right."  
**M:** "And we do that. If there's another person, then the driver doesn't deal with it."  
I: "That makes sense"  
**M:** "But sometimes you're the only person or the kids are in the back and then the driver has to deal with it. And then I just don't. I say forget it and listen to what's in there, and sometimes it isn't anything I want to hear, but safety comes first"
17. 00:05:42:32 I: "What is it like then if you really need to, what kind of problems are there with that?"  
**M:** [*shrugs*]  
**M:** "It's not going in the right direction, it's not the right song, I just don't care. It's more important to drive."
18. 00:06:10:20 I: "What about the radio?"  
**M:** "That's fairly easy"  
**F:** "That's pretty easy, you have to remember how to set the clock."  
**M:** "But only twice a year."
19. 00:06:19:18 **M:** "I have no idea what these things are."  
**M:** [*points to graphic equalizer*]  
**F:** "I've never used it."  
I: "So you guys have never used this?"  
**F:** "No."

20. 00:06:43:40  
**M:** "One of the problems I have is that I can never find the tapes."  
**M:** *[opens center console]*  
**M:** "Well, usually the tapes are on the floor, we cleaned up a bit. But if you look in here we have a million tapes." *[picks up a tape]* "We have empty boxes that don't have the tapes in them. We have tapes in the boxes, but they're not the right boxes."  
**I:** "So what do you typically do?"  
**M:** *[shrugs]*  
**M:** "I say" *[picks up a tape that's not in a box and looks at the label]* "we've got 'Great Broadway Shows', how bout we listen to that one?" *[throws tape back in console]*
21. 00:07:12:20  
**I [to C2]:** "Do you guys ever ask for a specific tape, back there?"  
**C1 & C2:** "Yeah!"  
**I:** "Do you ever want to hear a certain thing?"  
**C2:** "Yes."  
**C1:** "Sometimes we feel like some certain songs that we like."  
**I:** "Ok, can you think of a tape that should be in the car right now? Why don't you ask your mom to put it in?"  
**C2:** "ummmmm"  
**C1:** "Do we have 'Little Shop of Horrors'?"  
**M:** "Gooooood question"
22. 00:07:41:44  
**I:** "So you're saying that you would typically say 'We got Broadway Shows'?"  
**M:** "Well, if I'm the only driver.. if I'm the only adult here, then that's what I would say."
23. 00:07:51:24  
**I:** "But what about here when we've got Gary?"  
**F:** "Two adults.. "  
**F:** *[opens console; it opens towards him and he has to lean way over the top to look into it. He takes out a handful of tapes and selects a box]*  
**F:** "So I could first eject this and put it in the right box .."  
**F:** *[ejects tape and puts it in console, not in a box]*  
**F:** "And then I would look and see if I could find the Little Shop of Horrors."  
**F:** *[takes out a handful of tapes and tape boxes and looks through them. He has to turn them over so he sees the actual tape label, not just the box label]*  
**I:** "So you are just looking through all of them there?"  
**F:** "Yes, knowing it is probably not in the right box"  
**C1:** "I know we have the box, I'm not sure if we actually have the tape"  
**F:** *[takes out another handful of tapes]*  
**I:** "So there's a problem, sometimes the boxes.. where are the tapes if they're not in the boxes?"  
**C1:** "uh .."  
**C2:** "the floor .."  
**F:** "We don't know .."  
**M:** "They're not on the floor today, we cleaned up a little. But they don't seem to be anywhere."
24. 00:08:34:44  
**I:** "What other things can you do with this radio/tape combo?"  
**M:** "We have a couple of preset stations, so we have.. "  
**M:** *[presses button labeled 1; the word "Radio shows" is written in pencil on a sticker above it]*  
**M:** "I don't know what that one is"  
**F:** "Classical."  
**M:** "I \*thought\* that one was .." *[Radio shows the time]*  
**M:** *[presses button 1 again, Radio shows 87.7, plays static]*  
**M:** *[presses button labeled 2, Radio changes to 90.5, plays static; presses button 1, Radio shows 87.7, plays static]*  
**M:** "Now wait a second, we had the classical station set.."  
**M:** "I thought that was 89 something"  
**C1:** "89 or something"  
**M:** "Right, and this is 87.7"  
**F:** "Ah, they must have changed it.. "  
**M:** "Somebody changed it!"  
**F:** "They must have taken it off the power.. "

25. 00:09:04:16 I: "So here's a question, someone must have set that up originally, now your saying that someone changed it, we don't know who? Does that sort of thing happen often?"  
**C1:** "No"  
**M:** "No?"  
**F:** "No."  
**M:** "Well, I think there' ways to change it without meaning to."  
**M:** *[parks the car]*  
**M:** "But I don't exactly know. I know we have 89 and I didn't change it deliberately. Did you change it deliberately?" *[points at F]*  
**F:** "No, but I think it happens.. we had 87"  
**M:** *[turns off car, but turns key back half way to get electricity on again]*
26. 00:09:37:12 **M:** *[turns off car, Radio goes blank]*  
**M:** "oh, sorry .."  
**M:** *[tries to turn key half way, but turns it all the way and the car starts again .. turns key back a little and the radio comes back on]*  
**M:** "there we go."
27. 00:09:38:32 **F:** *[hits button 4, Radio changes to 107.9]*  
**F:** *[hits power button, Radio turns to clock]*  
**F:** "87.7 I think is the default if the power is turned off and turned on and I think when they charged up the battery.. "  
**M:** "Ah, so we took the car in and he thinks its a default."
28. 00:10:01:28 **M:** "So how do we set it back to 89?"  
**M:** *[hits SCAN]*  
**M:** "No, I didn't want to use scan, I wanted seek"  
**M:** *[hits SEEK, Radio searches for a station]*  
**I:** "So what did you do?"  
**M:** "I used SEEK to get to the next station. I can never remember which is which; I almost always hit the wrong one first."  
**M:** *[presses the button labeled SET, then the button labeled 1]*  
**M:** "SET 1"  
**M:** "Is that it?"  
**I:** "Looks like it worked"  
**M:** "Cool."
29. 00:10:29:16 **M:** *[presses 2, Radio changes to 90.5]*  
**M:** "Then we've got NPR that has the news and talk shows, but its just static right now"  
**I:** "Who set that one, do you guys know?"  
**F:** "Me"
30. 00:10:39:40 **M:** *[presses 4]*  
**M:** "Ah! But now we don't have \*my\* station.. which is.. "  
**M:** *[presses SEEK several times, Radio changes to ???]*  
**M:** *[presses SET, then 4]*
31. 00:10:50:40 **I:** "Did you just put your station over somebody else's?"  
**M:** "No no, I don't think so, because my station was always number 4. I think he's right, it went back to a default somehow."
32. 00:10:59:48 **I:** "So did you guys sit down and draw up a big plan about who was to have what stations?"  
**M:** "No, they're kind of in order. So number one is the lowest one, then the next one."
33. 00:11:26:08 **C1:** "Mom, 89.9 is the classical station."  
**M:** "Right and I just set it.."  
**M:** "89.\*9\*?"  
**C1:** "89.\*9\*"  
**M:** *[presses SEEK, Radio changes to something above 89.9]*  
**M:** "There \*is\* no 89.9, according to this radio. It cannot pick that up."  
**C1:** "It's 89.9."  
**M:** "OK, anyway."

34. 00:11:32:48  
**M:** *[pressing each numbered button in turn]*  
**M:** "Then that's NPR, then that's my station the oldies, and the other two we don't use."  
**F:** "6 is the NPR station in NC."  
**M:** "Ah! Oh, I didn't know that! Very good thing to know."
35. 00:11:53:04  
**F:** "The other thing that can happen is you get into AM mode .."  
**F:** *[presses a mode button]*  
**F:** "... and it changes all the buttons. I don't really know the relationship between AM buttons and FM buttons."  
**I:** "Do you guys ever listen to any AM stations?"  
**M:** *[shakes head no]*  
**C1:** "Football!"  
**I:** "Do you have that one set on a button?"  
**F:** "When you switch back over to AM it goes back to that."  
**I:** "So you just left it on that one."
36. 00:12:17:48  
**I:** "Any other features that you really like? Actually any thing that's missing that you wish you had with this radio?"  
*[short silence]*  
**I:** "Well, what about this, we didn't really get a chance to hear how it sounds.. you say you use it on long trips, are there any problems with everyone being in the car on a long trip in terms of hearing the radio?"  
**M:** "Oh, yeah, we do have problems. See, lot's of times Gary and I might want to talk and the kids are in the back so then we'll fade it"  
**M:** *[presses FADE down]*  
**M:** "So this one's kind of easy. Our other car radio is really hard to do that."  
**I:** "So you used a button?"  
**M:** "Yeah, the fade button, and this little arrow means push it back"  
**M:** "So there's R and F over here but its mostly front and back"  
**M:** *[points to display of radio that has a horizontal line with F on the left and R on the right]*  
**M:** *[presses FADE up and a little arrow moves along the horizontal line towards the F]*  
**I:** "Oh, I see when you do that a little arrow moving. While you're driving, can you see that?"  
**M:** "Oh, yeah, yeah sure."  
**M:** "Mostly though, you can hear it."  
**M:** *[presses FADE down and FADE up several times]*  
**M:** "I can hear that, I don't know if your microphone can hear that"  
**I:** "I can hear it go all the way to the back"  
**M:** "So if they're in the back, we'll fade it that way. If they are sleeping, then we'll fade it forward."
37. 00:13:54:44  
**M:** "And as often happens on our rides, they're sleeping AND he's sleeping .." *[points to F]* ".. I bring it over to me."  
**M:** *[presses BALANCE to demonstrate. Sound goes to left side of car and radio shows a horizontal line with L on the left and R on the right and an arrow that moves to the left as she presses BALANCE]*  
**M:** "Now that messes up some of the stereo, but I still do it anyway."
38. 00:14:02:36  
**F:** "I don't know what the RCL button does."  
**M:** "What does the RCL button do?"  
**I:** "Where's the RCL button?"  
**F:** *[points to RCL button under the power button]*  
**F:** *[presses RCL button a couple of times Radio display changes from station number to time and back again]*  
**I:** "Is there a chance that maybe it recalls the last station you were on?"  
**F:** "No, when you hit a station button, it shows you the station but then it goes back to the clock after a while, maybe this goes back to the clock immediately"  
**I:** "hit that again, perhaps?"  
**F:** *[hits it again]*  
**I:** "It shows you what station you are on."  
**M:** "Maybe"  
**F:** "who knows?"
39. 00:15:06:48  
**C1:** "Can we go into the store yet?"  
**I:** "Good idea. You've been very helpful, and I want to thank you for your time; do you mind if I contact you again for a follow-up later on?"  
**M:** "Absolutely. In the meantime, I'm going to steal back my channel from him" *[points at F and laughs]*  
**F:** *[rolls eyes]*