

## CHARACTERISTICS OF TEACHING LISTENING IN ENGLISH LESSONS.

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**Abstract:** This study aims to explore the key challenges and main approaches to teaching listening in English lessons. The objectives include examining teaching methodologies, defining the concept of listening, and identifying methods to address linguistic difficulties encountered in listening. The practical significance of this research lies in its potential use for developing lecture courses on foreign language teaching methods and for writing academic papers or coursework. Listening is a critical skill for effective communication in English, requiring focus and attention, especially when learning a second language, which demands even greater concentration.

**Keywords:** listening, English, teaching methods, senior students.

Listening is a distinct type of speech activity, more complex than speaking, reading, or writing. One of the critical skills for successful communication in English is listening. Learning English, especially as a second language, can be challenging and demands significant mental effort. Concentration and attentiveness are essential when learning any language through listening, and these demands are heightened in a foreign language. Students often discover the amount of focus required after they begin practicing listening. People who struggle with concentration also face difficulties in listening. Listening to another language requires even more attention than usual.

There are numerous types of listening, each serving distinct functions and playing unique roles across various fields of study. Both foreign and domestic methodologies classify listening types based on two main criteria:

(1) the communicative objective (learning task)

(2) the connection to expressive spoken speech.

When considering the relationship with expressive spoken language and its auditory form, the following types of listening are recognized [Tsvetkova, 1995]:

- Listening as a part of oral communication (interactive listening);
- Listening to understand dialogues or multi-person conversations (listening to interaction);
- Auditory perception and comprehension of monologue speech (transactional listening).

In addition to these types, other essential forms of listening include Communicative Listening and Guided Listening.

The aim of this research is to explore the challenges and key techniques of conducting listening exercises during English lessons. In listening to English texts, it's important to focus on keywords to grasp the meaning of the context. The best way to enhance listening skills in English is to seek online resources that offer repeated exposure to content, which can be replayed for better understanding. English Club TV, for example, is a useful resource for non-native speakers. Programs such as "Speak Up" and "Art of Conversation" provide excellent material for developing listening skills.

In everyday life, even when listening to someone close to us, we often focus on only half of the conversation. This highlights the need to improve our listening abilities. Teaching listening requires practice and patience, especially for non-native speakers, but with perseverance and attention, it is achievable. Active listening, where the listener consciously tries to fully comprehend the spoken message, is a good starting point. Students should also learn to interpret non-verbal cues, such as facial expressions and body language, although they don't need to

become experts in this field. Watching videos online or on TV can help students pick up on physical clues, such as facial expressions and gestures, which can aid in understanding.

English Club TV, with programs like "Speak Up" and "The Art of Talking," can be invaluable for students learning English. Listening is a foundational skill in English, and many students find it challenging. Using media as a learning tool is critical, as it can engage students and hold their attention in lessons. Teachers must strike a balance between theoretical knowledge and practical application when teaching listening skills. It's essential that educators understand what makes listening difficult for learners and how to address those challenges.

Listening has historically been the least explored area in foreign language teaching, partly because it was once viewed as a passive skill that didn't require direct instruction. However, recent theory and practice have shown that listening is central to language acquisition. Kochkina notes that language development largely occurs through listening, and this skill often poses the most difficulties for learners. The biggest challenge is that listeners cannot control the speaker's pace or delivery, unlike reading, where a student can adjust the speed and reread as needed. Listeners must process information in real-time, which adds complexity.

To help students develop listening skills, linguists recommend starting with short, simple texts and gradually increasing their length and complexity. Initially, texts should contain familiar vocabulary and simple sentence structures, and new vocabulary should be introduced slowly. As students progress, the volume and variety of sentences, phrases, and vocabulary should increase.

Another challenge in listening is the speaker's pace. Slowing down more important information helps with comprehension, while secondary information is delivered faster. Pauses in speech can also assist with understanding, though

overuse of pauses can lead to fatigue. Teachers should regularly expose students to spoken English in class, helping them prepare for real-world communication.

Some teachers may rely too heavily on textbook exercises without adapting them to their students' needs. It's important to try different activities in class to find what works best. Various audio and audiovisual materials should be used, including photographs, movies, TV shows, and audio recordings. While auditory materials are harder to process due to the lack of visual cues, they are vital for exposing students to a variety of speakers and accents.

Teachers can use recordings in class, both of their own voices and of others, to help students practice listening. Activities such as repeating after a speaker, answering questions, and listening to dialogues can help students improve their listening skills. Over time, more complex tasks, such as listening to radio broadcasts or watching news clips, can be introduced. Familiarizing students with the topic beforehand can help them better understand the content.

Correcting students' mistakes during listening activities is also part of the learning process. Rather than interrupting a student, teachers can use gestures or allow classmates to help, giving the student a chance to self-correct. This process of self-correction can reinforce learning more effectively than immediate teacher correction.

Nowadays, teachers should incorporate diverse listening materials, including songs, video clips, and even cartoons, to engage students and develop their listening skills. Different sources of information, from audio recordings to visual aids, play an essential role in language learning, especially when alternating between them to build comprehension step by step.

Listening activities should serve multiple purposes: understanding, remembering, evaluating, and drawing conclusions. These activities help prepare students for real-world communication in English.

**Conclusion.** Listening training is a crucial aspect of learning English, as effective communication cannot occur without the ability to listen. The concept of listening encompasses the perception and comprehension of spoken language. Its communicative role is particularly significant in the early stages of learning English.

Moreover, listening can now be considered a form of developmental learning. This is because the act of listening to spoken language helps improve memory through the retention of different types of texts, broadens students' knowledge, and enhances attention through the use of metaphorical expressions. Additionally, it fosters attentiveness to the speaker by encouraging active listening and understanding. All of these factors highlight the importance of integrating listening skills into English lessons in elementary school.

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