

IMPROVING LISTENING SKILL WITH SEVERAL STRATEGIES

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Annotation: An analysis of enhancing listening skill by using suitable methods and situations.

In learning language as a second or foreign, to be master of that language it is important to gain all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing; because “fluent speaker” means the person who has a high level in all skills. In this paper, the most effective and useful strategies for English listening, which is one quarter of this language, are considered.

First of all, to achieve your goal in a short period, choosing the method that works best for you is vital. It’s very important to be in the right setting when learning any part of English. With listening, it’s even more important, because listening is a skill that requires your careful attention. According to FluentU that is a participant in the Amazon Services LLC Associates Program, there are three main types of learning situations:

1.Independent study: It means practicing by yourself whenever and wherever you want. Some learners are easily distracted in classrooms by others, and some prefer feeling comfort while studying and it suits best for them.

2. Classroom setting: It stands for meeting a teacher and other students in a classroom regularly. Classroom setting is quite helpful for those who are uncomfortable on their own during classes or prefer classroom discussions, group works or cannot focus on the task if they are alone.

3. One-on-one: One-on-one classes are sessions with you and a teacher (or a conversation partner). Some might prefer these lessons if they feel shy around other students or if it is easier to ask questions and get feedback from a teacher or conversation partner privately (alone). After trying these different ways of practicing English listening skills, and choosing best learning setting, next step could be taken.

Secondly, according to the situation that you would like to have, you can start practicing listening skills by using different methods. Here are some examples of them:

1. Dictation: this strategy involves listening podcasts and writing the same words on the paper as you listen. This process might be with pauses and repetitions while writing, because not everybody is able to do two tasks (listening and writing) simultaneously. After finishing the task, notes must be compared to the original text and if there are mistakes, the podcast should be re-listened. Dictation helps to force listener to be more attentive. This method is mostly for beginners and they have a chance to be aware of many unknown words.

2. Watching authentic materials, they could be TV shows, movies, ted talks, and a number of contents on YouTube. In this list, I prefer TV shows most due to long

duration of events and repetition of words, phrases. From my experience, TV series helped me a lot to be a good English-listener.

3. Having conversations with native speakers. It helps to improve listening skills for any situations, especially when speakers have different accents. Nowadays, internet is a main source of data and there would not be problems with finding native speakers. Even special programs and websites are available for chats.

4. Listening to music. When you listen to a music, you can meet new words in there and it is easy to find the words from lyrics. So, word bank can be filled with a lot of unfamiliar words. As you know, powerful vocabulary is also a key point of “best listeners”.

5. Listening to an audio dialogue without reading the text and writing down what you hear. This is most suitable for pre-intermediate level, because it is very useful to find gaps in vocabulary.

6. Listening to a news, report or a podcast in the target language, then trying to identify the topic of the report before reading about it. News can be from online newspapers, magazines and they have audio files. All you need to do is finding the source that you are interested in such as New York Times and pressing play without reading the information. Try to guess what the main points are, what the topic is, then go to the report and see if you got the key points correct. This could be challenging, but very helpful to build vocabulary and very good listening skills.

This article has only been able to touch on the most general features of improving

listening skills. In conclusion, we can say that listening is one of the most significant part of the language and it is better to be able to understand what we hear. For this, we must choose appropriate setting and proper methods before or while studying target language. If we are in the right area and practicing enough, every language is possible to be fluent and master user.

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