



TEACHING LISTENING COMPREHENSION TO A2 LEVEL LEARNERS

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Abstract. This article explores the theoretical foundations, importance, and effective methods of teaching listening comprehension to A2 level learners. The study examines the role of listening in foreign language acquisition, reviews the views of Uzbek and international scholars, and discusses modern approaches to listening instruction. Particular attention is given to active listening, authentic materials, podcasts, audio-visual resources, and listening strategies that enhance comprehension. The findings indicate that the development of listening skills significantly contributes to communicative competence, vocabulary growth, pronunciation improvement, and overall language proficiency among A2 learners.

Keywords. Listening comprehension, A2 learners, English language teaching, communicative competence, authentic materials, active listening, podcasts.

Аннотация. В данной статье рассматриваются теоретические основы, значение и эффективные методы обучения аудированию учащихся уровня А2. Исследование анализирует роль навыков аудирования в процессе изучения иностранного языка, взгляды отечественных и зарубежных ученых, а также современные подходы к обучению восприятию речи на слух. Особое внимание уделяется активному слушанию, использованию аутентичных материалов, подкастов, аудиовизуальных средств и стратегий аудирования. Результаты исследования показывают, что развитие навыков аудирования способствует формированию коммуникативной компетенции, расширению словарного запаса, совершенствованию произношения и общему повышению уровня владения языком.

Ключевые слова. Аудирование, уровень А2, обучение английскому языку, коммуникативная компетенция, аутентичные материалы, активное слушание, подкасты.

Annotatsiya. Mazkur maqolada A2 darajadagi o'quvchilarga tinglab tushunish ko'nikmasini o'rgatishning nazariy asoslari, ahamiyati hamda samarali metod va texnikalari tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotda tinglab tushunishning chet tilini o'rganishdagi o'rni, mahalliy va xorijiy olimlarning qarashlari hamda zamonaviy yondashuvlar yoritilgan. Shuningdek, faol tinglash, autentik materiallardan foydalanish, podkastlar, audio-vizual vositalar va strategik tinglash faoliyatlarining samaradorligi ko'rib chiqilgan. Tadqiqot natijalari tinglab tushunish ko'nikmasini rivojlantirish o'quvchilarning kommunikativ kompetensiyasi, lug'at boyligi va talaffuzini takomillashtirishda muhim omil ekanligini ko'rsatadi.

Kalit so'zlar. Tinglab tushunish, A2 daraja, ingliz tilini o'qitish, kommunikativ kompetensiya, autentik materiallar, faol tinglash, podkastlar.

Introduction. Listening is one of the four fundamental language skills and serves as the primary source of linguistic input in the process of language acquisition. In foreign language learning, especially in English language teaching, listening comprehension enables learners to understand spoken messages, develop pronunciation, acquire vocabulary, and improve communicative competence. For A2 level learners, listening plays a particularly important role because it helps bridge the gap between basic language knowledge and meaningful communication.

In recent years, language teaching methodology has increasingly emphasized the importance of listening as an active and strategic process rather than a passive skill. Modern theories proposed by scholars such as Krashen, Vandergrift, Goh, Rost, and Field highlight the significance of comprehensible input, listening strategies, authentic communication, and learner engagement in the development of listening comprehension. As a result, teachers are encouraged to employ interactive and technology-supported approaches that provide learners with meaningful listening experiences.

The purpose of this study is to examine the theoretical foundations of teaching listening comprehension to A2 learners and to analyze effective methods and techniques used to develop listening skills. The research focuses on the role of listening in language learning, challenges faced by learners, and practical strategies that contribute to successful listening comprehension and communicative development.

Main body

Listening comprehension is a skill that is essential for communication. "Listening is not be understood. Listening comprehension is one of the most important skills, it is the process of receiving information and ideas, understanding the content and responding to the speaker. It is not enough to simply hear the text or words, a good listener must also pay attention to the non-verbal means of speech of the speaker¹.

Until recently, the development of listening comprehension skills, which we considered essential in learning a foreign language, is also considered essential in the native language. Listening is one of the main skills for language acquisition. In 1950, a study by scientists in the Journal of Educational Research showed that 45% of communication is listening, 30% is speaking, 16% is reading, and 9% is writing. If these figures are correct and people draw conclusions from their own experience, then the ability to listen and develop it is a skill that should be in the first place. The fact that oral communication makes up more than 70% of a person's life once again proves the importance of listening comprehension skills². It is advisable to develop listening comprehension skills in children as a life skill and in various ways during classes.

¹ Kamelia Gulam, Listening skills, Business Communication: Basic Concepts and skills, 2014.P-23

²Fátima Castillo Mejilla, Lucelia Benedith Calero, Karen Álvarez Salgado, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua ,Strategies to develop the speaking and listening skills in the seventh B grade at the Chiquilistagua public school. 2014.-P-62

Foreign scientists conducted a study called "The Importance of Listening Skills," and the results of this experiment showed that a person spends an average of 70% of his waking time communicating, which shows how important listening is. Through listening, the listener receives direct information about vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, oral word order, as well as the tone of words, phrases, and sentences. Accent, tone of voice, and volume provide additional information to the text and affect the level of understanding.

Listening is important not only for children to understand the text they hear from the instructions and audio devices in the room, but also as a life skill that involves receiving and responding to any information that is verbally transmitted in everyday interactions. This term, called "active listening," includes not only the sense of hearing but also being aware of body language and the ability to empathize with the speaker to ensure that the message being conveyed is received correctly.

In the simple example of "Excuse me, can you tell me the way to the train station?", it is natural that there will be cultural differences, but the goal is the same - effective communication. If both parties are not actively listening, the possibility of real communication is reduced. Without the ability to listen, language acquisition is impossible, and therefore, without listening, the most important interaction between people will not occur.

Listening is the combined process of sound and meaning. Decoding phonemes is the understanding of the basis of words and sentences. According to D. Noonan, listening comprehension is a six-stage process, which occurs in the same sequence and at the same speed in our brains: listening, attending, understanding, remembering, evaluating and responding³.

1. Hearing. This is related to the response caused by sound waves that stimulate the sensitive receptors of the ear.

³ Segura Alanso, Rocio, Master's Thesis; The importance of teaching listening and speaking skills.2011-2012.- P-12.

2. Attention. This refers to the selection of our brain. The brain triggers warning signals and allows a person to focus on them.

3. Comprehension. This involves analyzing the meaning of what we hear and understanding the symbols we hear and see. Symbolic stimuli can be not only words, but also sounds. To do this, we need to understand the intended meaning from the context.

4. Memory. This process is also an important part of listening, because in addition to the person receiving and interpreting information, our mind also remembers the information. However, what our memory remembers may be completely different from what we have heard or seen before.

5. Evaluation, that is, the listener evaluates the received message. It is at this time that active listeners identify evidence, organize evidence into ideas, and determine whether the message is biased or not.

6. Responding. At this stage, the listener's response can determine whether he or she has received the message correctly or incorrectly⁴.

The focus on listening comprehension skills in language teaching theory is raised to a new level in connection with the idea of “comprehensible input” put forward by Krashen. According to this idea, providing material for reading and listening at the level of the learner in language learning ensures the effectiveness of this process. The scientist D. Nunan notes that in native language education, listening comprehension was considered an automatic process until the end of the 20th century, and after G. Brown proved in his research that listening comprehension should be formed on the basis of both oral speech and exercises, special attention was paid to listening comprehension in native language education⁵.

Listening comprehension is considered one of the most important skills in language learning. Many Uzbek and international scholars have researched the

⁴ Segura A. Master's Thesis. The importance of teaching listening and speaking skills. 2011-2012. – P.13.

⁵ Nunan D. 2002 “Listening in language Learning”. In “Methodology in Language Teaching” Eds. Jack C.Richards,Willy A.Renandya. – P. 235.

theories, methods and approaches of teaching listening. According to modern language teaching methodology, listening is not a passive process but an active and strategic skill that helps learners understand spoken language proficiency⁶.

World scholar have provided different theories about listening comprehension. Larry Vandergrift and Christine Goh describe listening as a fundamental component of second language acquisition. They emphasize that learners should use metacognitive strategies such as predicting, monitoring and evaluating while listening. Their theory highlights the importance of active learner participation during the listening process⁷.

Another important scholar, Stephen Krashen introduced the “Input Hypothesis” theory. According to this theory, language learners acquire a language successfully when they receive understandable and meaningful input. Listening activities provide learners with authentic language input and help improve vocabulary, pronunciation and grammar comprehension⁸.

Michael Rost explained that listening is the main source of language input in communication. He divided listening into four main types;

1. Discriminative listening.
2. Comprehensive listening.
3. Critical listening.
4. Appreciative listening.

These types help learners develop different listening abilities depending on the communicative situation⁹.

⁶ Musayeva N. Theories and approaches to teaching listening skills in language learning. 2025 mart. - P-152

⁷ Vandergrift L., & Goh, C. (2012). Teaching and Learning Second Language Listening: Metacognition in Action. Routledge. 1st Edition, First Published – 2012. Location New York. – P. 81.

⁸ Krashen S. (1985). The Input Hypothesis: Issues and Implications. Longman. Published By: Linguistic Society of America. – Pp. 171-173.

⁹ Rost, M. (2016). Listening in Action: Developing Listening Strategies in Language Learning. Prentice Hall. – P. 32.

According to John Field listening comprehension includes three important processing models;

Bottom-up processing;

Top-down processing;

Interactive processing;

Bottom-up processing focuses on understanding sounds, words and sentence structures step by step. Top-down processing uses background knowledge and context to predict meaning. Interactive processing combines both approaches for effective comprehension¹⁰.

Jack C. Richards stated that listening is more than hearing sounds. It involves understanding meaning, making predictions and interpreting information¹¹. Similarly, Naoko Osada criticized traditional methods that treated listening as a passive skill and suggested interactive teaching approaches instead¹².

In addition, scholars such as Rebecca Oxford and Joan Rubin emphasized the importance of listening strategies and learner awareness. They argued that successful listeners consciously use strategies to improve understanding memory¹³.

Uzbek scholar also pay special attention to teaching listening comprehension through innovative and technological methods. Modern Uzbek researchers recommend using podcasts, multimedia tools, audio-visual materials and internet resources in foreign language classes. These methods increase learners' motivation and improve comprehension skills. The research works of K.N Ganiyevna and

¹⁰ Field J. (2008). *Listening in the Language Classroom*. Cambridge University Press. – P. 110.

¹¹ Richards, J. C. 2008. *Teaching Listening and Speaking: From Theory to Practice*. Cambridge University Press.-P-30.

¹² Osada, N. 2004. *Listening: Problems and solutions in SLA research*. Language Teaching Research.-P-66.

¹³ Oxford, R. 1993. *Research on second language listening comprehension: Implications for the classroom*. Language Learning.-P-145.

N.Shavkatovna on using podcasts to enhance listening and speaking skills in EFL classes¹⁴.

In conclusion, both Uzbek and world scholars agree that listening comprehension is an essential part of language learning. Modern theories show that effective listening instruction should include strategic learning, interactive activities, technological tools and meaningful communication practice. These approaches help learners become active listeners and improve their overall language competence.

Listening is one of the main components of language learning. Students learn new words, phrases and grammatical structures by listening. Students with improved listening skills will be able to quickly understand speech and take in new information easily. This is especially important in the early stages of language learning, as learners often expand their knowledge by hearing a new language. Listening skills are important in developing communication skills. By listening to other people talk, students learn skills that help them understand their thoughts and express their own. Listening in the communication process ensures mutual understanding and is one of the basic skills necessary for effective communication. Listening skills help to understand the cultural context of language learning. Each language has its own culture and traditions.

Students learn the cultural context, customs and social rules of the language through listening. It helps to understand the language more deeply and to take into account cultural differences in communication. Listening skills help students in the process of self-learning. By listening to audio materials, podcasts, movies and music, students have the opportunity to learn the language on their own. This helps students learn the language according to their interests and increases their motivation.

Listening skills are important in the development of hearing. Students

¹⁴ Shavkatovna S. N., Ganiyevna K. N. Using podcasts for enhancing listening and speaking skills in EFL classes //Integration Conference on Integration of Pragmalinguistics, Functional Translation Studies and Language Teaching Processes. 2022.-P-249.

improve their listening skills by listening to different accents, pronunciations, and speech rates. It helps to learn the language more effectively and improves students' comprehension level. Listening skills help students to express their thoughts clearly and fluently.

A number of difficulties may arise during the listening process. These difficulties can affect students' success in language learning. Students may have difficulty understanding different accents and pronunciations. This can be a problem especially for those who are learning a new language. Some people speak too fast, which makes it difficult for listeners to understand. Learners may come across new words and phrases in the material they are listening to, making it difficult for them to understand. Terminology related to specific fields (such as scientific or technical fields) can cause difficulty in the listening process. Some grammatical structures, especially complex sentences and phrases, can be difficult to understand during listening. Learners may have difficulty understanding various grammatical rules and their variations. Lack of understanding of the cultural context of the material heard can cause difficulty in the listening process. Students may have difficulty understanding the material because they are not familiar with the topics they are hearing. Some students may have hearing problems, which makes the listening process difficult. Noise or other sounds in the hearing environment can make listening difficult. Listening for long periods of time can cause you to lose focus. This reduces students' ability to understand the material. Students may have difficulty concentrating if the material they are listening to is not interesting. Students may feel anxious or sad during the language learning process, which makes the listening process difficult. Low self-esteem can prevent students from participating in the listening process. Difficulties in listening can complicate students' language learning. In order to overcome these difficulties, students need to

practice regularly, listen to different materials and try to develop their skills. It is also important to identify challenges and develop strategies to counter them¹⁵.

for people to learn a new language and communicate effectively. Despite the importance of listening in language acquisition, it has not been paid much attention to teaching curriculum for a long time. However, in recent years listening started to gain much attention in the language

acquisition process as it is an inseparable part of effective communication. Nowadays although there are different approaches to teaching and learning listening, teaching listening methods are being developed every day. Michael Rost, a lecturer at the University of California explains the importance of listening in language classrooms in his book Teaching and Researching Listening as follows.

Listening has a very crucial role in academic contexts as it is very important for people to learn a new language and communicate effectively. Despite the importance of listening in language acquisition, it has not been paid much attention to teaching curriculum for along time. However, in recent years listening started to gain much attention in the language acquisition process as it is an inseparable part of effective communication. Nowadays although there are different approaches to teaching and learning listening, teaching listening methods arebeing developed every day. Michael Rost, a lecturer at the University of California explains the importance of listening in language classrooms in his book Teaching and Researching Listening as follows:

1. Listening is vital in the language classroom because it provides input for the learner. Without understanding input at the right level, any learning simply cannot begin.

2. Spoken language provides a means of interaction for the learner. Because learners mustinteract to achieve understanding. Access to speakers of the

¹⁵ IMPORTANCE OF LISTENING SKILLS IN LANGUAGE LEARNING Ziyoviddinova Shokhida Tashkent University of Economics and Technology Namangan .-P-355

language is essential. Moreover, learners' failure to understand the language they hear is an impetus, not an obstacle, to interaction and learning.

3. Authentic spoken language presents a challenge for the learner to understand language as native speakers actually use it.

4. Listening exercises provide teachers with a means for drawing learners' attention to new forms (vocabulary, grammar, new interaction patterns) in the language¹⁶.

To summarize, listening has an important role both in daily life and in academic contexts as it is crucial for people to sustain effective communication. Emphasizing the importance of listening, Anderson and Lynch state that listening skills are as important as speaking skills because people cannot communicate face-to-face unless both types of skills are developed together. Listening skills are also important for learning purposes since through listening students receive information and gain insights¹⁷.

Listening is one of the four essential language skills and plays a crucial role in the process of language learning. It is the primary means through which learners receive linguistic input and develop their communicative competence. In learning a foreign language, especially English, listening helps students understand spoken speech, improve pronunciation, increase vocabulary, and develop grammatical knowledge. For this reason, listening comprehension is considered a fundamental component of language acquisition.

In EFL classrooms, listening is important because it provides learners with exposure to authentic language. Students hear how native speakers pronounce words, use intonation, stress, and connect ideas in natural communication. According to Jody Thompson, listening enables learners to recognize speech patterns and understand spoken English more effectively. Through regular listening

¹⁶ THE IMPORTANCE OF LISTENING IN LANGUAGE LEARNING

O.A. İsmayilzadə Azərbaycan Universiteti, Ceyhun Hacıbəyli, 71, Bakı, Azərbaycan.-P-56.

¹⁷ Anderson, A. & Lynch, T. 2003. Listening. Oxford: Oxford University Press.-P-33.

practice, learners become more confident and capable of participating in real-life communication¹⁸.

Listening also has a strong influence on the development of speaking skills. Before learners can speak a language fluently, they need to hear and understand it. Listening provides correct models of pronunciation and sentence structure, which students later imitate in their own speech. Therefore, listening and speaking skills are closely connected and support each other in language learning.

Another important function of listening is vocabulary and grammar acquisition. While listening to dialogues, conversations, songs, podcasts, or lectures, students encounter new words and grammatical structures in context. This contextual learning helps learners remember language items more effectively and use them appropriately in communication. Moreover, listening activities improve students' concentration, memory, and critical thinking abilities.

Listening comprehension is also essential for academic achievement. In the classroom, students need listening skills to follow teachers' instructions, understand explanations, answer questions, and participate in discussions. Poor listening ability may negatively affect students' learning process and communication skills. Therefore, teachers should pay special attention to developing listening comprehension through various interactive and meaningful activities.

Furthermore, listening contributes to intercultural competence. By listening to authentic English materials, learners become familiar with the culture, traditions, and communication styles of English-speaking countries. This cultural awareness helps students communicate more naturally and appropriately in different social situations.

Finally, listening is a vital skill in language learning that supports the development of speaking, pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, and communication

¹⁸ Jody Thompson .Published online by Cambridge University Press: 15 March 2024.-P-99

abilities. Effective listening practice increases learners' confidence and helps them become successful language users. Therefore, teaching listening comprehension should be an important part of EFL instruction, particularly for A2 level learners who require continuous exposure to understandable spoken English.

Listening plays a very important role in the process of language learning and acquisition. It is considered one of the fundamental language skills because it helps learners understand speech, develop pronunciation, and communicate effectively. Many researchers believe that listening is the first skill that should be developed when learning a foreign language. In natural language acquisition, people first listen, then begin to speak, and only after that develop reading and writing skills.

According to the article "About the Importance of Listening in Language Acquisition" by Hasan Alisoy, many foreign language learners experience difficulties because traditional teaching methods mainly focus on grammar rules and memorization. Such methods often fail to develop real communicative competence. As a result, many students lose motivation and confidence while learning a foreign language.

The author emphasizes that listening is the key element of successful language acquisition. Through listening, learners become familiar with the pronunciation, rhythm, stress, and intonation of the target language. Listening also helps students understand how native speakers use language in real communication. Therefore, learners should spend more time listening to authentic language materials¹⁹.

One of the effective approaches mentioned in the article is the TPR (Total Physical Response) method developed by James Asher. This method is based on the natural process of first language acquisition. In TPR, students first listen and understand commands before they begin to speak. For example, learners respond

¹⁹ Alisoy, H. "About the Importance of Listening in Language Acquisition". In: Proceedings of the Republican Scientific Conference "Unity of Tradition and Modernity in Foreign Language Teaching and Research", Nakhchivan State University, 2023.-P- 45.

physically to instructions such as “Open the door” or “Put the book on the table.”

This approach reduces stress and helps learners acquire language naturally.

Another important idea discussed in the article is the “listen first” principle supported by Valerian Potoski. According to his research, delaying speaking practice until learners develop strong listening comprehension can improve fluency and overall language proficiency. This principle shows that listening should be the foundation of language instruction.

Furthermore, listening helps learners improve other language skills such as speaking, reading, and writing. Students who regularly practice listening can increase their vocabulary, improve pronunciation, and develop better communication skills. Listening activities also increase learners’ confidence and motivation because they gradually begin to understand native speakers more easily.

In conclusion, listening is one of the most essential components of language learning. It serves as the basis for developing communicative competence and supports the improvement of other language skills. For this reason, language teachers should give special attention to listening activities and encourage learners to practice listening regularly through authentic materials, conversations, and audio resources.

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long time. However, in recent years listening started to gain much attention in the language

acquisition process as it is an inseparable part of effective communication. Nowadays although

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Some researchers have explored listening skills and suggested ways to improve them. Brown emphasizes that active listening requires practice and focus. Rost highlights that listening involves understanding the intent behind words, not merely hearing them. Goh suggests that students should use

strategies such as predicting and summarizing. Field points out that real dialogue helps learners become accustomed to spontaneous speech.

Active listening involves focusing on the speaker and comprehending the message. This can be achieved by avoiding distractions, paying attention to key points, and asking clarifying questions. As Rost states, "Listening is not just a question of hearing words, but understanding and responding appropriately." Norkuzieva adds that structured activities help students enhance comprehension, while Teach This Limited notes that interactive activities foster attentiveness and critical thinking. Kuylieva agrees that systematic methods improve learners' ability to process oral information enhance comprehension, while Teach This Limited notes that interactive activities foster attentiveness and critical thinking. Kuylieva agrees that systematic methods improve learners' ability to process oral information.

Repetition helps learners familiarize themselves with new words and speech patterns. Effective practice includes listening to the same recording several times, repeating helpful phrases aloud, and summarizing the content. As Brown explains, "The more exposure we have to spoken language, the more easily we comprehend it." Kuylieva believes that repetition strengthens phoneme perception, while Ishanova notes that controlled repetition helps students distinguish between speech patterns. Uraimshikova states that repetition enhances understanding, pronunciation, and confidence.

Listening to authentic materials, such as real conversations, podcasts, and movies, exposes learners to various accents and rates of speech. Audiobooks and podcasts provide natural speech, while subtitled movies help link spoken and written words. Conversations with native speakers improve comprehension in authentic contexts. As Goh explains, "Using real-life listening materials helps learners build confidence in understanding spoken language." Teach This Limited adds that these materials bridge the gap between academic exercises and real communication. Norkuzieva supports this view, stating that

exposure to real-life conversations improves learners' ability to process spoken language. Furthermore, Kuylieva explains that authentic listening activities enhance adaptability to diverse speech patterns and cultural diversity.

Goh's and Rost's experiments confirm that repetition enhances phoneme recognition and semantic understanding. The reason why the method is effective is that it enables cognitive processing to be more efficient during listening, in that learners can manage differences in accents and pronunciation tendencies more adequately. Active listening can also be referred to as a good tactic as it allows learners to improve focus, develop analytical thinking, and increase contextual understanding. However, its effectiveness depends very much on its consistent usage. The use of real-life material, such as podcasts, interviews, and informal conversations, helps the learners develop on their ability to comprehend as well as habituate themselves with real speech.

Sameen Irfan has mentioned some methods to improve listening in his article;

Here are some tips and ways to improve listening skills in English and become a better listener:

Listen actively and attentively: Active listening means paying full attention to what you hear and trying to comprehend the message, rather than just hearing the sounds. Active listening also means engaging with the speaker, by asking questions, giving feedback, or showing interest.

Listen to a variety of sources and materials: One of the best way to improve english listening skills, you need to expose yourself to different types of spoken English, such as podcasts, audiobooks, radio, TV, movies, songs, lectures, speeches, conversations, etc. You also need to listen to different accents, dialects, and styles of English, such as American, British, Australian, Indian, formal, informal, etc.

Listen for the main idea and the details: When you listen to something, you should try to identify the main idea and the details of the speech. Listening for the

main idea and the details helps you to understand the structure, logic, and purpose of the speech, as well as to remember the information better.

Listen repeatedly and regularly: To understand how to improve english speaking and listening skills you need to practice listening repeatedly and regularly. Listening repeatedly means listening to the same material more than once, until you understand it fully and can summarize it in your own words.

Listen and read: To understand how to improve english listening, you can also listen and read at the same time. Listening and reading means listening to something while following the transcript, subtitles, or lyrics. Listening and reading helps you to improve your pronunciation, spelling, and grammar, as well as to learn new words and phrases.

Listen and write: To improve english listening, you can also listen and write at the same time. Listening and writing means listening to something and taking notes, summarizing, or answering questions. You can also listen audio to improve english and write in English, to practice your listening and writing skills in the same language.

Chris Amerikos also brought up many interesting methods for developing listening;

Set Listening Tasks;

Listening tasks are a great way to practice English listening skills in a controlled environment. English learners must find audios that they can replay two or three times to improve their listening skills. The listening tasks must be separated into different sections with different goals. Start with getting an overall idea of the audio and then listen for detailed information.

There's a reason why English textbooks have listening tasks set out for the students before they complete a listening activity. The questions that learners need to answer when listening to an activity are there to give the listener a reason to listen. In the real world, we rarely listen to anything without having a reason to listen to it.

The first time you listen to something, set a task that looks at the bigger picture.

Ask yourself questions like:

“Who is speaking?”

“What is the relationship between the people who are speaking?”

“How do they feel?”

“Are they happy or sad?”

“Are they arguing? What are they arguing about?”

“What are they speaking about?”

These questions will change depending on the listening task, however, these are good examples of listening questions that lead to an understanding of the listening task overall. Once you have answered questions like these, you'll have a good idea of what the listening activity is about. You don't need to understand everything to answer these questions and once you answer them you can move on to more detailed questions. Try to find important and detailed information the second time you listen. If the people in the audio are arguing, ask questions like: why are they arguing? Was the argument resolved at the end of the audio? How did they resolve the argument? The second listening task will give you the chance to interpret and comprehend the listening without feeling overwhelmed because you already have an idea of what the listening activity is about. The more you practice listening skills with audios that you can replay, the easier it will be to comprehend English in the real world.

Eavesdrop On A Conversation ;

Once you have practiced listening to English in a controlled environment, it's time to take these skills into the real world. Listen to people speaking English if you have access to hearing English in your day-to-day life. It can be daunting to ask someone to speak English to you so that you can try to understand what they say.

Eavesdropping and listening to other people speaking English allows you to hear English in an authentic way without needing to respond. Once again, make

sure you set some listening tasks. If you're a beginner in English then keep the tasks simple and listen to get the general idea of what the English speakers are speaking about. If you're advanced, set tasks that require you to listen for detailed information once you know what the English speakers are speaking about.

Listen To The Same Audio Multiple Times Throughout The Week;

Find English audio that is difficult for you to understand the first and second time you hear it. It can be a podcast or a scene from a movie that you are struggling to understand. Listen to it over and over again over the course of a week and see if you can understand more of it at the end of the week. Try not to read the transcript or use subtitles. The whole point of this exercise is to challenge your ear. It will get easier and easier the more you listen.

Watch Movies With English Subtitles;

It is challenging to watch a movie in a foreign language. Accents and different dialects mean that you'll miss a lot of the words, phrases or even whole sentences. This results in struggling to understand the whole story and you'll most likely turn the movie off. Improve your English listening skills by turning on English subtitles instead of turning on subtitles in your own language. It is significantly easier to read words rather than hear them. Watching English movies with English subtitles will give you some extra support while watching the movie. It will also help you identify new words that you didn't know before. As you progress through your English learning journey, challenge yourself by turning off the subtitles altogether. But don't be afraid to add a bit of extra help whenever it's necessary. Learning a language should make you feel good, not defeated.

Challenge Yourself With Podcasts;

Once you've mastered watching English movies without subtitles (in your mother-tongue language or in English) then it's time to challenge yourself further. Podcasts are great resources to practice listening to English - but they are very challenging. Firstly, there is no possibility to turn on subtitles to read what is

being said which is the first challenge. In addition, there are no images or videos to help you understand the context of the podcast.

Podcasts rely entirely on understanding the language, tone of voice and other verbal intricacies without the assistance of visual aid. However, the one major advantage of podcasts is that the podcast presenters are usually well-spoken. They speak slowly (when compared to other native English speakers) and clearly. Podcasts presenters also structure their podcasts to guide the listener through the podcast. You can listen to the same podcast repeatedly until you understand the whole thing from start to finish. It's a great exercise if you're looking to challenge your English listening skills.

Listen Without Actively Learning;

We've looked at examples of activities that you can do to actively improve your listening skills. Actively improving your listening skills refers to listening carefully for the gist of what you're listening to or listening for specific detail. It's the process of comprehending what we hear and it is vitally important. However, our brains also put in a lot of work even when we're not actively listening. This is what we can call exposing ourselves to a language.

When we visit other countries, we are constantly exposed to the language of the country. We don't actively seek out the language and we don't actively learn it - we simply hear it and read it everywhere we go. We can add this into our quest to improve our English listening skills by putting English audios on while we do other work. Turning on an English radio channel or playing a podcast in the background of your day-to-day life is a great way of getting your brain used to the sounds and rhythm of English without actively learning it.

This might seem like a strange way to learn a language, however, exposure to a language is just as important as actively learning a language. If you want to improve your English listening skills, play English podcasts, movies, radio or series without focusing on it and let your brain put in the hard work.

Listen To Different Accents;

Have some fun when listening to different English accents. It can be interesting and entertaining to see what you understand and what you don't understand. Mixing things up and listening to different English accents will help you train your brain to identify words even when they are pronounced in a way that's different from what you have learned. This will ensure that you will be able to listen to English spoken by anyone and anywhere.

Some regional Scottish, Irish, and Australian accents can be very heavy and difficult to understand - and you mustn't expect to understand the heaviest English accents because there are instances when [native English speakers](#) struggle too. If you're interested in improving your English listening skills so that you can understand almost any English speaker (both native and non-native) then you should watch a mix of English movies and series from different regions. There are many British English TV shows that you can watch where people use a variety of accents - from the Great British Bake Off to Downton Abbey and The Crown.

Listen to English Radio Stations;

English radio stations are an alternative to English podcasts. You can listen to English radio presenters and listen to English music at the same time. Listening to English radio stations gives good insight into English culture too. You can keep up-to-date with the news and what's happening in English-speaking countries while learning English and improving your English listening skills.

In terms of teaching strategies for students to develop their listening skills, I would recommend the HEAR strategy (Halt – Engage – Anticipate – Replay) which is built on the idea that listening actually takes active work and it is not just a passive skill. In a blog post by Donna Wilson, she describes the cognitive and anatomical aspects at work during the listening process and from that research, the HEAR strategy seeks to help students to focus on listening and be more attentive during any communicative exercise. While you can read more about their approach to listening at the link above, the basic summary of the HEAR strategy is that students should:

Halt – "...[to] free your mind to pay attention to the person speaking"

Engage – "Focus on the speaker" by some sort of physical movement towards his/her direction

Anticipate – Actively think about what the speaker might share next

Replay – Review what the speaker is saying and try to make sense of commonalities, either independently or with peers.

Additionally, students should keep a log of new vocabulary words as I am a firm believer that vocabulary is a critical component of listening (and reading) comprehension. Students can simply keep a journal and write down the word and its corresponding meaning from the context in which he/she heard it. Hopefully by implementing all of these strategies in your classrooms, your learners will be on their way to improved listening fluency.

If you're an English learner who is trying to improve your English listening skills but you don't know where to start, then find small ways to introduce English listening activities into your daily life and accept that you won't understand everything. We all need to start learning somewhere and, if you make listening to English a habit in your daily life, you'll be surprised by how quickly you progress. Trust yourself, trust your brain and trust the process. You will reach your language goals with determination and a lot of practice.

Conclusion

The present study examined the theoretical foundations, significance, and effective methods of teaching listening comprehension to A2 level learners. The findings revealed that listening is a fundamental component of language acquisition and plays a crucial role in developing communicative competence, vocabulary knowledge, pronunciation, and overall language proficiency. The research demonstrated that listening should be viewed as an active and strategic process rather than a passive activity.

The study also highlighted the contributions of both Uzbek and international scholars to the development of listening instruction. Modern approaches such as

active listening, authentic materials, podcasts, audio-visual resources, and strategy-based learning provide learners with meaningful opportunities to improve comprehension and communication skills. Furthermore, technology-assisted learning environments increase learner motivation and offer access to authentic language input.

In conclusion, effective listening instruction is essential for successful foreign language learning, particularly for A2 learners who require continuous exposure to comprehensible spoken English. Therefore, language teachers should integrate interactive activities, authentic resources, and modern teaching strategies into their lessons to create engaging learning environments and support the development of confident and competent language users.

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