

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FIVE KEY LISTENING SKILLS FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS

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**Abstract:** This article provides information on the importance of the five basic listening comprehension skills for English learners.

**Key words:** English, listening, listening to a sentence, underlining the meaning.

### INTRODUCTION

“Listening takes up about 45 percent of the time adults spend in conversation.” Why is it important to listen.

It is not difficult to understand the importance of listening, because it is known that it takes about 45 percent of all communication. This is significantly more than speaking, which is 30 percent, and reading and writing, which are 16 percent and nine percent, respectively.

However, for all its importance, students (and even teachers) often do not give listening the attention they need. This is all the more remarkable as students often say that listening is the most difficult of all the English skills.

Listening problems for English learners.

There are many difficulties a person may have in understanding a conversation, lecture, or conversation in another language (and sometimes even in their own language). And the one who speaks and the listener and in general the whole situation can be the cause of these difficulties.

Additional factors that interfere with speech understanding include the speaker's rapid conversation, background noises, lack of visual cues (such as on the phone), limited listener vocabulary, lack of subject matter knowledge, and an inability to distinguish individual sounds.

Although some sources of listening comprehension problems cannot be changed, there are several skills or "strategies" that English learners can use to overcome them.

#### 1. Content prediction.

Imagine that you have just turned on the TV. You see a man in a suit standing in front of a large map with the symbols of the sun, clouds and thunder. What do you think he is going to tell you? Most likely it will be the weather forecast. You may hear words like "sunny", "windy", and "overcast". You will probably hear the use of the future tense: "It will be a cold start to the day"; "there will be showers in the afternoon", etc.

Depending on the context - a news report, a university lecture, a supermarket checkout - you can often predict the type of words and style of language the speaker will use. Our knowledge of the world helps us anticipate the information we are likely to hear. What's more, when we predict a topic of conversation, all of the relevant vocabulary stored in our brain is "activated" to help us better understand what we're listening to.

Content Prediction Practice:

Watch or listen to a recorded TV program or YouTube clip. Pause after every few sentences. Try to predict what will happen or what the next speaker will say.

Advice:

If you are taking a listening test, review the questions first and try to predict what information you need to listen to. For example, asking "How much...?" might require you to hear a specific number or amount of something.

## 2. Listening to the point.

Imagine that you are a superhero flying in the sky. From this height, you can see what the whole area is like, how densely populated it is, what kind of houses are in each area.

When listening, you can also get a "full picture", but with one fundamental difference: the information comes in a certain sequence. And in this sequence of information, there are content words (nouns, adjectives, and verbs) that can help you form this picture. We often call this listening for the gist.

For example, the words "food", "friends", "fun", "park", and "sunny day" have their own meanings, but when you hear the words in sequence, they help form the context of a picnic.

Practice listening to the point:

Find a short video with subtitles on a topic that interests you. Use the title to predict the content and then listen to the words of the content. Go back and listen again, only with subtitles. How much did you understand the first time? Come back to the video after a week for example and try again.

Advice:

As you learn new words, try grouping them with other words used in a similar context. Mind maps are good for this.

## 3. Detection of pointers.

Like traffic lights, there are signs in the language that help us keep track of what we're listening to. These words that connect ideas help us understand what the speaker is talking about and where they are taking us. They are especially important in presentations and lectures.

For example, if a university professor says, "I'm going to talk about the three factors that affect economic growth..." you might later hear the phrases "first of all",

"moving on to" and "in summary" (in summary) to indicate the next part of the conversation.

Other words and phrases may function in a similar way. For example, to clarify ("in other words" (in other words), "in a different way" (to put it another way)); to give examples ("to illustrate this" ('to illustrate this), "for example"), and so on. See this list of phrases for an example.

Pointer Language Detection Practice:

Most English learner textbooks come with a CD and an audio script. Find an example of a business presentation or lecture and see how many clue phrases you can identify (listen more than once if necessary). Then check your notes with the audio script. Advice:

In your notebook, group your pointer phrases according to their function and keep adding new expressions as they come up.

#### 4. Listening for details.

Imagine that you are a detective looking at buildings that you have seen before as a superhero. This time, instead of taking the big picture, you're looking for something specific and rejecting anything that doesn't match what's on your list. Similarly, when listening for details, you are interested in specific information - such as a number, a name, or an object. You can ignore everything that is not relevant. This way you can narrow down your search and get the information you need. On a listening test, if you are asked to write down a person's age, listen to age-related words ('old', 'young', 'years', 'date of birth', etc.) or a number that could represent that person's age. person. If it's a conversation, you can wait to hear someone start asking the question 'How old...?'

Practice listening to details:

Select the type of detailed information you want to practice listening to and watch the shows you expect to receive this information. For example, you can listen to a weather report to get detailed weather information, or you can follow sports news to get the latest game scores.

Advice:

If you are taking the test, once you receive the questionnaire, review the questions, underline important words, and decide what details you should include in the listening text.

#### 5. Emphasizing the value.

Imagine that you are a tourist in a country whose language you do not speak. In a restaurant, you hand over a credit card to pay the bill, but the waiter seems to say something apologetic in return. Even if you don't understand his words, you can probably conclude that the restaurant doesn't accept credit cards and you need to pay in cash instead.

It is a method of emphasizing meaning: using clues and prior knowledge of the

situation to understand the meaning of what we are hearing.

Similarly, we can emphasize relationships between people by the words they use without having to figure it out directly. Take the following conversation:

A: Tom, did you do your homework?

B: I did, sir, but the dog ate it.

A: That's a terrible excuse. You'll never pass your exams if you don't work harder.

From the words "homework" (homework) and "exams" (exams) we can conclude that this is a conversation between a student and his teacher. Using context clues and our knowledge of the world, we can determine what is being said, who is speaking, and what is actually going on.

Practice underlining the value:

Find a YouTube clip from a popular TV show like Friends. Now listen to some dialogue without watching the video itself. Draw a conclusion about what is happening, who is speaking and what is their relationship like? Now watch the clip again, but with the video. Were your conclusions correct?

Advice:

The next time you hear a word you don't understand, try to guess its meaning using the context or situation. But don't worry if you can't the first time. As with everything in life, the more you practice, the better you get.

Summarizing.

These strategies are not self-sufficient. While prediction is basically a pre-listening skill, the others must be used at the same time to get the best result.

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