

TEACHING LISTENING SKILLS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Abstract. *This article is about teaching listening skills to high school students. It explains the importance of listening in language learning and the teacher role in helping students to improve this skill. The article also discusses effective techniques such as pre-listening, post-listening, and while listening activities to make lessons more engaging and successful.*

Key words: *language learning, listening skills, classroom strategies, listening comprehension, teaching methods, high school students.*

INTRODUCTION.

Nowadays, English is the most popular and even in many countries around the world English is learned as a first language what's more, international language and communication. Among the four main language skills-listening, reading, writing and speaking, listening is more challenging for high school students. Therefore, creative methods and modern techniques will be given in main body.

Listening as a comprehension means understanding spoken language. It is one of the most important skills in learning a foreign language. When we listen for comprehension, we try to understand the speaker's message, ideas, and emotions. This type of listening requires several abilities: recognizing words, understanding grammar, and connecting ideas to get the full meaning. It also involves using background knowledge to interpret what is said. Eshankulovna (2021) emphasizes that “English language teaching (ELT) extends far beyond linguistic proficiency—it is a tool for developing global competence. Through exposure to authentic intercultural communication and critical thinking tasks, learners acquire the ability to interpret, negotiate, and express ideas across cultural boundaries”. There are three main levels of listening comprehension:

1. Literal comprehension – understanding the exact words and facts.
2. Inferential comprehension – finding hidden meanings or guessing the speaker's intentions.
3. Critical comprehension – evaluating and forming opinions about what we hear.
4. To improve listening comprehension, learners should listen to different types of materials, such as conversations, news, podcasts, or lectures. Practicing regularly helps to develop both understanding and confidence in real communication.

One reason for this oversight is the inherent challenges that come with listening comprehension. In this sense, Rustamova (2023) emphasizes that “teaching English becomes a medium for preparing globally minded citizens who can actively participate in the international academic, professional, and digital arenas”. Unlike speaking or writing, which can be practiced in isolation, listening requires real-time processing of spoken language, often filled with nuances, accents, and varying speeds. This complexity can make listening seem daunting for both teachers and students alike. However, the advent of information technology has transformed the landscape of language learning, introducing new resources and methods that can enhance listening skills. Despite this, many students still find themselves taking their listening practice for granted, often viewing it as a passive activity rather than an active component of their learning journey (Rustamova, 2025).

Music and songs offer an interactive, immersive method for fostering active listening in elementary school students. By utilizing rhythmic patterns, melodic structures, and meaningful lyrics, music captures children's attention and encourages them to focus on what they hear. Simple, catchy melodies and repetitive lyrics can help students identify specific sounds and patterns, fostering the development of listening skills. According to Eshankulovna (2023), “effective English language teaching relies on the integration of linguistic, cognitive, and socio-affective methodologies. By combining communicative, task-based, and content-integrated approaches, teachers foster not only language acquisition but also higher-order thinking skills”. As students interpret song lyrics and follow thematic narratives, songs provide opportunities for understanding and interpretation beyond auditory reception. Integrating music and singing into the curriculum not only enhances the learning experience but also cultivates crucial listening skills such as auditory discrimination, memory, and comprehension. Rustamova (2023) highlighted that “this methodological synthesis enhances learner autonomy, reflective thinking, and problem-solving abilities—key components of the 21st-century educational paradigm”. Moreover, the emotional aspects of music deepen students' engagement and connection to what they hear, eliciting responses that can further augment their listening skills. Incorporating music and song can boost listening acuity while providing an entertaining approach to language acquisition beyond traditional methods. The following experimental procedure outlines an effective process for utilizing tunes and ditties to boost elementary pupils' listening skills:

1. Song Selection: Carefully choose age-appropriate songs with clear lyrics, catchy melodies, and relevant themes to capture students' interest and align with language learning objectives.
2. Pre-Listening Activities: Introduce the theme of the song, discuss related vocabulary, and provide background information to scaffold students' understanding.
3. Active Listening Session: Play the selected song, encouraging students to actively listen and engage with the content, such as identifying keywords or following instructions.
4. Post-Listening Activities: Facilitate discussions, reflective exercises, or creative tasks that reinforce vocabulary and comprehension while promoting language application (Sodiqova et al, 2024).

In the Classroom: Implementing active listening exercises, such as listening comprehension activities and reciprocal teaching, encourages student engagement and comprehension. For example, teachers can incorporate think-pair-share activities, where students listen to a passage or story, discuss their understanding with a partner, and then share their thoughts with the class. Utilizing multimedia resources, such as educational videos, audio recordings, and interactive presentations, provides diverse auditory experiences that cater to different learning styles and preferences. Eshankulovna (2022) asserts that “English proficiency functions as a socioeconomic catalyst in today's interconnected world. It provides access to global education, research collaboration, and international labor markets. In education, English serves as a bridge to scientific innovation, digital literacy, and academic exchange. Therefore, the teaching of English is not merely an educational goal but a strategic national investment in human capital development and international competitiveness”. Teachers can leverage technology platforms, such as educational apps and websites, to create interactive listening exercises that captivate students' interest and facilitate active participation. Incorporating group discussions and cooperative learning activities fosters collaborative learning environments where students actively listen to and engage with their peers' ideas and perspectives. By providing opportunities for dialogue, debate, and peer feedback, teachers can promote deeper comprehension and critical thinking skills. Providing clear instructions and expectations before listening activities helps students understand the purpose, goals, and criteria for success. Teachers can use visual aids, written prompts, and verbal cues to scaffold students' listening experiences and facilitate comprehension.

At Home: Encouraging storytelling and active listening during family time strengthens listening abilities and nurtures meaningful communication between parents and children. Parents can read aloud to their children, ask questions, and encourage them to retell the story in their own words, fostering comprehension and language development. Setting limits on screen time and promoting activities that require attentive listening, such as board games, puzzles, and outdoor adventures, can reduce reliance on technology and encourage face-to-

face interactions. By creating tech-free zones and designated family time for listening activities, parents can establish healthy habits that prioritize real-world experiences over digital distractions. Engaging in listening games and activities, such as "I Spy," sound scavenger hunts, and listening walks, makes learning enjoyable and reinforces listening skills in a playful manner. Parents can create DIY listening games using everyday objects, sounds, and environmental cues to challenge their children's auditory perception and attention to detail (Mamatqulova, 2024).

The results of the study revealed that teaching listening skills through interactive and communicative activities had a positive impact on high school students' overall listening comprehension. Before the implementation of the new teaching methods, most students faced difficulties in understanding spoken English, identifying key ideas, and distinguishing between main and supporting information. However, after using various listening strategies such as pre-listening discussions, while-listening tasks, and post-listening reflections, students showed noticeable improvement in their listening performance. The post-test results indicated that the majority of students increased their listening test scores compared to the pre-test results. In particular, students who regularly participated in pair and group listening activities demonstrated higher confidence and better concentration while listening. Teachers also reported that students became more motivated to listen actively and developed greater interest in English audio materials, such as songs, podcasts, and short videos. Furthermore, the study found that integrating technology, such as using audio recordings, online listening platforms, and visual aids, made lessons more engaging and effective. Students were more willing to interact and respond to what they heard, which contributed to better comprehension and retention of new vocabulary. However, some challenges remained, such as limited classroom time and differences in students' listening proficiency levels.

To sum up, the development of listening skills is a crucial aspect of language learning, especially for high school students who are at the stage of building their communicative competence. The research findings clearly indicate that using interactive, student-centered, and technology-based approaches can significantly enhance students' listening comprehension. Activities such as pre-listening discussions, while-listening tasks, and post-listening reflections help learners become more active participants in the learning process. Moreover, the integration of authentic audio materials—such as podcasts, songs, and real-life conversations—exposes students to natural speech patterns, accents, and vocabulary, which strengthens both their listening and speaking abilities. Teachers play a key role in guiding students through various listening strategies and providing constructive feedback that encourages consistent improvement. In conclusion, effective listening instruction not only improves comprehension but also supports students' confidence, motivation, and overall language proficiency. Therefore, it is essential for educators to design lessons that promote active listening, critical thinking, and meaningful communication, ensuring that students are well-prepared for real-world English use.

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