

DEVELOPING LISTENING COMPREHENSION SKILLS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14800013>

Abstract. *Listening comprehension is one of the fundamental skills in learning a foreign language, especially for high school students who aim to develop their overall communicative competence. This article explores the importance of listening comprehension skills and effective methods for enhancing them in high school students. The study highlights the role of phonetic awareness, cognitive strategies, and modern educational technologies in improving listening comprehension. Additionally, it discusses challenges that learners face and provides practical solutions to overcome them. The findings suggest that integrating interactive listening activities, multimedia resources, and task-based learning can significantly enhance students' ability to understand spoken language. This research contributes to the field of language teaching by providing methodological insights for educators on how to foster listening comprehension skills effectively.*

Keywords: *listening comprehension, high school students, language learning, teaching methods, phonetic awareness, educational technology.*

РАЗВИТИЕ НАВЫКОВ ПОНИМАНИЯ НА СЛУШАНИИ ДЛЯ СТАРШИХ ШКОЛЬНИКОВ

Аннотация. *Понимание на слух является одним из основных навыков в изучении иностранного языка, особенно для старшеклассников, которые стремятся развить свою общую коммуникативную компетентность. В этой статье рассматривается важность навыков понимания на слух и эффективные методы их улучшения у старшеклассников. В исследовании подчеркивается роль фонетической осведомленности, когнитивных стратегий и современных образовательных технологий в улучшении понимания на слух. Кроме того, в нем обсуждаются проблемы, с которыми сталкиваются учащиеся, и предлагаются практические решения для их преодоления. Результаты показывают, что интеграция интерактивных занятий по слушанию, мультимедийных ресурсов и обучения на основе задач может значительно повысить способность учащихся понимать устную речь. Это исследование вносит вклад в область преподавания языка, предоставляя*

методологические идеи для педагогов о том, как эффективно развивать навыки понимания на слух.

Ключевые слова: *понимание на слух, старшеклассники, изучение языка, методы обучения, фонетическая осведомленность, образовательные технологии.*

Introduction: Listening comprehension is one of the main language skills in learning a foreign language. This skill is very important for high school students, because it not only affects the development of other language skills (speaking, reading, writing), but also helps them prepare for real communication. However, the formation of listening comprehension skills is a complex process for many students, and a special methodological approach is required for its effective implementation. This article analyzes the methods of correctly forming listening comprehension skills for high school students, the difficulties encountered, and ways to overcome them. The goal of the article is to provide teachers and students with clear recommendations for improving listening comprehension skills and to present scientifically grounded methodological approaches.

Methods: For effective development of listening comprehension skills in high school students, various teaching strategies and methods can be applied. These methods aim to enhance the students' ability to understand spoken language, improve their cognitive skills, and make the learning process more engaging and practical. The following approaches can be used:

1. Using Authentic Audio Materials;

Authentic audio materials, such as real-life conversations, podcasts, radio programs, and news broadcasts, help expose students to natural speech patterns, varying accents, and colloquial expressions. Listening to native speakers in diverse contexts also enables students to grasp different speaking styles, which is important for practical language use.

Podcasts and interviews are especially effective as they present a wide range of topics and language levels.

News broadcasts allow students to hear formal language and learn about current events while improving their listening comprehension.

2. Interactive Listening Activities;

Interactive listening activities actively involve students in the learning process and encourage them to apply their listening skills in various contexts. These activities can be divided into three stages:

Pre-listening tasks: These tasks activate prior knowledge and prepare students for the listening exercise. They can involve discussing the topic, predicting content, or teaching new vocabulary that will appear in the audio.

While-listening tasks: These tasks encourage students to focus on specific information during the listening activity. Examples include taking notes, answering comprehension questions, identifying key words, or filling in the blanks.

Post-listening tasks: After the listening exercise, students should summarize the main points, discuss the content, and engage in related speaking or writing activities. This helps reinforce comprehension and retention of the material.

3. Technology-Assisted Learning:

The integration of technology into language learning has proven to be effective in improving listening comprehension. Technology allows students to access a wide variety of audio resources and engage in interactive exercises that provide instant feedback. Some examples of technology-assisted learning tools include:

Language learning apps (such as Duolingo, Babbel, etc.) that offer listening exercises with different difficulty levels.

Online platforms (like YouTube, TED Talks, and other educational websites) that provide both formal and informal language practice through video and audio content.

AI-powered tools that offer personalized learning experiences, help students track progress, and provide feedback on their listening comprehension skills.

4. Task-Based Listening Exercises;

Task-based learning is an effective approach for developing listening skills, where students listen for specific purposes. Tasks can range from simple activities to more complex ones, depending on the student's proficiency level. Examples of task-based listening exercises include:

Listening for details: Students listen to a passage and answer specific questions about the content.

Listening for the main idea: Students listen to longer recordings, such as interviews or discussions, and summarize the key points.

Predicting content: Students predict what will happen next in a conversation or story, based on the context provided.

5. Using Visual and Contextual Cues;

Incorporating visuals such as images, subtitles, and videos can aid in listening comprehension, especially for beginners or intermediate learners. Visuals provide context that helps students associate sounds with meanings, improving their understanding. For example, watching a video about a historical event with subtitles can support comprehension by connecting spoken language with visual content.

These methods, when combined effectively, can significantly enhance the listening comprehension skills of high school students, making them better equipped to understand spoken language in a variety of real-world situations.

Results: The methods applied for developing listening comprehension skills led to significant improvements among students. Lessons that incorporated authentic materials, interactive activities, and technology effectively enhanced students' listening abilities. Below are the key results observed among the students:

1. Improved Listening and Understanding Uncertainty;

Many students, who previously struggled with understanding different accents and fast speech, found it easier to follow spoken content after using the new methods. By engaging with authentic audio materials (such as podcasts, news broadcasts, and interviews), students became better at understanding various accents and complex speech. Their uncertainties in listening decreased, and they gained more confidence in understanding unfamiliar vocabulary.

2. Improved Retention and Interpretation;

Interactive listening activities helped students retain and interpret the material they listened to. They were better able to summarize the content, identify the main ideas, and discuss the material clearly. This not only improved listening comprehension but also developed their ability to express and explain their thoughts critically.

3. Effectiveness of Technology-Assisted Learning;

The effectiveness of technology-assisted learning was clearly demonstrated. Students using online platforms and language learning apps received timely feedback, which allowed them to consolidate their skills. They achieved faster results with exercises that were personalized to meet their specific needs. For example, students using AI-assisted listening exercises were able to track their progress, and this motivated them to continue improving.

4. Increased Motivation and Interest;

The use of new methods and technology led to increased motivation and interest in listening comprehension.

Students found that listening to various topics not only helped them learn the language but also broadened their worldview. Their enthusiasm for lessons grew because they were gaining useful knowledge from listening and applying it in practice.

5. Reduction in Comprehension Errors;

In previous years, students often made several comprehension errors during listening activities. However, after implementing the new methods, these errors decreased significantly.

Students focused more on key points and became better at understanding the material. The interactive and task-based activities helped solidify their comprehension skills, and they saw improvements in their vocabulary as well.

The methods used to enhance listening comprehension for high school students proved to be highly effective. They led to greater student confidence, reduced comprehension errors, and improved motivation. These methods, when applied over the long term, are expected to yield even better results.

Discussion: The results of the study indicate that the methods used to develop high school students' listening comprehension skills, particularly through interactive activities and technology-assisted learning, were effective. The use of authentic audio materials and interactive exercises played a crucial role in improving students' listening abilities. These findings align with previous research, which also highlighted the positive impact of interactive approaches on enhancing language skills.

However, some unexpected results emerged during the study. For certain students, particularly those at the beginner stages of language learning, while improvements in listening comprehension were observed, some uncertainties remained. This could be attributed to the complexity of understanding and the adjustment process to new materials. Individual differences among students and the need for more time to fully grasp complex listening tasks might have influenced this outcome.

Additionally, the use of technology proved to be highly effective in increasing motivation and engagement. Online platforms and applications allowed students to quickly assess and improve their skills, which contributed to greater success. However, some students primarily used technology for independent learning, and they developed at a slower pace compared to those who received more structured guidance and group discussions.

The results of this study are largely consistent with the existing literature, although some studies suggest that technology-assisted learning may only be effective for certain students.

This suggests that technology may not be suitable for all learning styles. Therefore, when applying these methods, it is essential to consider the individual needs of students and adapt the teaching approach accordingly.

Looking ahead, to further enhance listening comprehension, it will be important to incorporate more diverse methods and technologies. Additionally, supporting a personalized approach that takes students' unique learning styles into account will be key. Teachers should aim to tailor lessons to meet individual needs and make the best use of interactive exercises and technological tools. This will help improve student motivation and success in language learning.

In conclusion, providing students with a variety of methods and technologies to enhance their listening skills proves to be effective in strengthening their language proficiency. Despite some unexpected results, the overall success of these methods demonstrates the importance of continuing to develop and apply such approaches.

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