

IMPORTANCE OF USING PODCASTS FOR ENHANCING LISTENING SKILL

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Abstract: *Listening is ability of pay attention or to hear something. Moreover, listening and hearing are two different things, which hearing is essentially a passive activity, while the listening is determining the meaning and the message of the sounds or words. Listening is one of subject that is taught in the field of language study. This skill can be improved by practice continuously and there are many kinds of strategy to develop your listening skills. It is an active process In which listeners select and interpret information which come from auditory and visual clues. During learning language we should use podcast and news also like this audios due to increase our learning level.*

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Listening has been called the overlooked capacity for a decade, among four language abilities, listening, speaking, reading and writing. They provide exposure to diverse accents, authentic context, and natural speech, all of which are critical components for effective language learning. Regularly listening to podcasts can enhance concentration, comprehension, and overall ability to

understand spoken language. In relation to three cognitive processing stages, expectations, parsing and usage, Anderson (1995) suggested listening comprehension problems. Second, Goh (2000) discovered in the parsing stage that listeners easily forget what is heard, are unable to construct a mental representation of words heard, and because of potential problems, they do not understand subsequent sections of feedback. Third, they understand the terms but not the intended message at the use stage, and are uncertain about the main ideas in the message. Listening is one of the most important language skills. Listening is the part in communication, through listening we can share our ideas with other people. Listening is the most frequently used language skill in everyday life.

Podcasts for educators go beyond just passive listening. You can use this communication tool in your own classroom. Podcasts can be used to:

- provide information in a fun and entertaining way (thus, increasing student engagement)
- extend student learning with critical links between content areas
- synthesize student learning through podcast creation and
- communicate with parents and the community. Podcasts can be used as part of your classroom listening activities. Here are some ideas for how you can use them in your classroom.

Originally, a podcast is simply an audio or video transcription of information that can be downloaded and played anywhere and anytime. It is kind of satellite radio, but in pre-packaged, time-limited formats. Podcasts are recorded using software or online recording programs, exported to a digital warehouse (such as iTunes), and then downloaded by anyone who searches for that topic or anyone who has a direct link to the podcast itself. The term “podcasting” is an amalgamate of “iPod” and “Broadcasting” and has been defined by Wikipedia as a type of digital media consisting of an episodic series of audio, video, PDF or ePubfiles subscribed to and downloaded through web syndication or streamed online to a computer or mobile device. Simply put, podcasting is a type of radio show which allows access to periodic information through downloads on portable

devices. It is easy to create and view a podcast and all an individual requires is a computer, internet connection and a recording device.

Listening comprehension discussion: Again, in this activity you want your students to practice listening for general meaning. But here, you are using the podcast as an opening for discussion.

To do it:

1. Play the podcast. You can present the podcast once or a few times if needed.

2. Put questions that you want to engage with on the board.

Some examples are:

- What is this episode about?
- Who is speaking?
- What are they talking about?
- What is the general mood of the conversation?
- Where are they?

3. Students can discuss answers to questions in partners, in small groups, or as a class. Introduce new vocabulary.

Here, your goal is to introduce new vocabulary.

To do it:

1. Start by teaching key target vocabulary and creating a glossary of the new words. These will be a guide for students to use as they listen to the podcast.

2. Provide a transcript of the podcasts as a cloze activity with blank spaces where the key words should be. Students can populate the blank spaces with the correct key vocabulary. Pro tip: you can get key vocabulary lists and transcripts for episodes of “English Learning for Curious Minds” podcast when you become a member.

The purpose of the podcast is to provide some background information or to introduce an idea or topic. You can also use it to start off a unit – maybe on the environment or fair trade.

1. Play the podcast.

2. Have the class summarise what they heard.
3. Ask them what they think about the podcast content.
4. Do they agree? Disagree? Why?
5. Do they think there is a problem?
6. What is it?
7. Who is responsible?

And then Have students discuss questions in partners, small groups, or as a class.

In conclusion, as we recognize the importance of listening in language acquisition and communication, let's embrace the power of podcasts as a versatile tool in our educational practices. By investing time in listening activities and engaging with podcasts collaboratively, we can enhance our language skills and enrich our learning experiences.

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