

IMPROVING LISTENING SKILLS FOR YOUNG LEARNERS THROUGH PODCASTS

Endirova Kumushoy, 4th year student

Nukus state Pedogogical Institute, Nukus, Uzbekistan

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Annotation: *This article explores the effectiveness of podcasts as a tool for enhancing listening skills in young learners. It examines the unique benefits of auditory learning, the appeal of podcasts for younger audiences, and practical strategies for integrating podcasts into language learning curricula.*

Nowadays digital age, podcasts have emerged as a important tool for language learning. For young learners, podcasts offer a fun and engaging way to improve their listening skills. By exposing children to authentic conversations, storytelling, and songs, podcasts can completely enhance their language proficiency. This article will explore the advantages of using podcasts in language learning for young learners and provide practical tips on how to effectively integrate them into language direction. One of the benefits of podcasts is their adaptability. They can be accessed anytime and anywhere, making them ideal for independent learning and self-paced implementation.. Young learners can listen to podcasts on their own instruments, such as phones or tablets, or as part of classroom activities. This flexibility allows for personalized learning experiences, boarding to individual needs and alternative.

In addition podcasts offer a wide range of content appropriate for disparate age groups and language levels. From stories and songs to news reports and educational debates , there is a podcast for every interest. This diverse selection of content helps to maintain learners' engagement and motivation, as they can choose topics that agree with their interests and learning aims .

The importance of podcasts is also mentioned in Rahmi Rosita and Retno Seyta's article: " Podcasts could be an alternative and innovative computer-based learning tool that might improve the students understanding and achievements in listening skills"[18;1].Rahmi Rosita and Retno Seyta's highlighted "Podcasts is important for communication skills and people need to listen and understand the utterances.The user of podcasts in education and innovative opportunities is considered to promote motivation". Listening skills are fundamental for language development. They allow learners to understand spoken language, follow conversations, and assimilate new vocabulary and structures. For young learners, strong listening abilities can pave the way for better speaking, reading, and writing skills.[39;2]Walsh K (2021).

Advantages of Using Podcasts

- Engagement: Podcasts naturally attract younger audiences through storytelling and captivating content.
- Convenience and Accessibility: Podcasts can be accessed on various devices, allowing learners to listen anytime and anywhere.
- Exposure to Authentic Language: Podcasts often feature native speakers, exposing learners to different accents, slang, and colloquial expressions.[34;3] Adam.R(2019)

Types of Podcasts Beneficial for Young Learners

- Educational Podcasts: These podcasts focus on teaching specific subjects or skills designed for children.
- Storytelling Podcasts: They captivate young listeners with narratives, enhancing their imagination while improving comprehension skills.[45;4]Smith,J(2020).

Furtermore podcasts offer a wealth of real-world discussion, accents, and dialects, providing students with subjection to authentic language use that goes beyond traditional textbooks. This helps them develop a nuanced understanding of pronunciation, intonation, and pattern.Podcasts cover a wide range of topics, from knowledge and history to fiction and comedy. This permit students to choose content that aligns with their interests, encourage engagement and

motivation. Podcasts can be well integrated into the classroom or used for independent learning. Students can listen at their own pace, rewind and replay sections, and pause to take notes. This flexibility styles accommodates different learning and speeds. Regular listening podcast improves students' capability to understand spoken language, identify key details, and infer meaning from context. This leads to enhanced listening comprehension and overall language proficiency. In addition podcasts introduce students to new words and phrases in a natural context. Repeated exposure reinforces vocabulary ownership and helps students increase their linguistic repertoire. By incorporating podcasts into their learning routine, by students develop positive listening customs, such as active listening, concentration, and focus. These habits are valuable not only for language learning but also for academic success in general. Podcasts often quality diverse voices and perspectives, exposing students to different cultures, traditions, and viewpoints. This promotes intercultural understanding and empathy.

In the book by Ayu Viviyani Astuti, Umami Khaeriti Syam, Herlina Daddi, "Improving students listening skills through podcasts" [5;5] the main focus lies on research conducted by the authors to explore the effectiveness of using podcasts to improve listening skills. The book investigates the use of podcast as a tool for enhancing listening skills particularly for students. The authors might have employed classroom Action Research with a cyclical approach involving planning, implementation, observation and reflection. This method is often used in educational settings to evaluate teaching strategies. The research likely explores the impact of podcast on students listening comprehension. It might report positive outcomes such as: Increased scores on listening tests. Improved ability to understand spoken English. Enhanced engagement and motivation in language learning. The book might also discuss practical strategies for incorporating podcast into language learning activities.

Incorporating podcasts into the learning routine of young learners presents a dynamic approach to enhancing listening skills. By engaging with varied content, fostering active participation, and encouraging creativity, podcasts

provide an enriching platform that cultivates a foundational skill essential for academic success and effective communication. Embracing this innovative learning tool can unlock a world of language exploration and development for young minds.

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