

## LISTENING COMPREHENSION SKILL

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### Abstract:

Increasing listening skills is an important part of educating youngsters in the context of learning English as a foreign language. The main objective of the present research is to provide information about English listening comprehension skills and its subskills.

**Keywords:** listening comprehension skill

From birth, listening plays a key role in developing language comprehension. Babies listen to words spoken by their parents before mimicking sounds and speaking their first words. Listening is, therefore, one of the major skills required to develop a complete understanding of the English language. Moreover, listening comprehension plays an important role in the English language process because it provides the learner language input. This skill is one of the most important when learning a foreign language for understanding and responding a message. Through listening, learners can build an awareness about the interworking of language systems at various levels and thus it establishes a base for more fluent productive skills. Syafii et al. (2020) establish that listening is one of the most important language skills in the English class, and extend this skill is vital for better understanding of the language. It means that it is one of the most relevant skills in the acquisition of a target language because the learners are involved in the communication process.

Listening comprehension is an invisible mental process and it allows students to understand the spoken language. Rost (2016) points out that listening comprehension is viewed as an interactive process, since listeners are concerned in building meaning. In that sense, when students improve this ability they become more participative and attentive in the communication process.

### Subskills of listening

Listening has many purposes in the communication process. It means that as a wide skill, it embraces many sub-skills. These subskills are described as follows:

1. Listening for general understanding.– It is to concentrate on listening carefully in the main points or parts of general information transmitted in the audio. Al-Jawi (2010) mentions that the idea of ‘general’ comprehension means not only focusing on analysing every word conveyed by the speaker, but rather the listener should be able to hear or get a broader idea of what is happening.

2. Listening for detailed information.– It involves training students to understand specific information such as details that are relevant and important in the text. The main goal is to help students obtain detailed information they may need like dates, names or hours. Campos (2023) mentions that in this sub-skill students cannot ignore anything because they do not know exactly what information of the listening passage will be necessary to complete the task.

3. Listening for specific information. This sub-skill is good for training the students to hear everything and to identify individual words. Al-Jawi (2010) points out that when listening to the news, only focus on something when the listener is interested in something more specific.

4. Listening for specific vocabulary.– Learning vocabulary through listening is one type of learning meaning-focused input in comprehension skills. Pesce (2013) mentions that listening activities provide opportunities to learn new words. In this sense, the purpose is to learn, memorise and identify words, collocations of phrases.

In conclusion, listening is one of the primary skills in learning a language. Through listening, students can develop an understanding of how different linguistic systems interact and, as a result, establish a foundation for more proficient and effective mastery of the language (Yildirim & Yidirim, 2016).

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