

### The Most Common Used Ways for Improving Listening Strategies by High-Score IELTS Candidates

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#### Article Information

**Received:** February 05, 2023

**Accepted:** March 04, 2023

**Published:** April 17, 2023

**Keywords:** *listening skills, priceless strategies, obstacles in listening, listening comprehension.*

#### ABSTRACT

*The chief purpose of the investigation is to improve the listening skills. Also, understanding the obstacles, particularly while listening the English conversations. In a modern tendency, the majority of individuals come across with this skill, due to the fact that they do not have enough information about the priceless strategies that will be given in this article.*

**INTRODUCTION:** Listening is a fundamental part of English and it is a key to all effective communication. It is crucial to emphasize this skill that assists us with understanding the world around us and is one of the modern languages of Europe. According to Brown (2012), “listening is a complex activity and we can assist students to comprehend what they hear by activating the prior knowledge”. Moreover, he considers that “Another way teachers can help ease the barrier of listening: training students in diversity types of listening”. Several explanations have offered by Johnson and Hampleman (1958) “when distinguishing words from recognition of other words”. We build the analyze in order to identify the opinions of Richards, John Platt (2000) and Pourhosein Gilakjani and Seyedeh Masoumeh Ahmadi (2001), “listening comprehension in the process of understanding speech that focuses on the role of language units such as phonemes, words and grammatical structures, as well as the role of listener expectations, circumstances and context, previous knowledge, and subject matter”. We then review the views of Osada (2004) that “listening is not received sufficient recognition on their own, but rather were seen as a passive skill which could be developed without outside help”. According to Morley (2001) and Growth (2001) “listening is the most significant skill for language learning as it can be mostly used in normal daily life and improves faster than other language skills, indicating that it contributes to the improvement other language skills”. Hamounda (2013) argues that the term denotes crucial obstacles in listening comprehension because universities pay attention to grammar, reading and vocabulary. In this point of view listening and speaking skills are not an important part of many books, and teachers do not include these skills in their classes, which causes improper development of listening.

#### 1.0 Difficulties in Listening

It is often considered that the majority of students have an obstruction and they find listening to

be one of the most difficult skill in English long and Ross points out that of the four skills, listening is likely to be the most problem for learners. It is vital to emphasize the views of Vandegrift. He states that listening is a complex, active process in which the listener have to distinguish sounds, understanding vocabulary and grammatical structures, interpret stress and intonation. Thus, understanding by ear requires a lot of mental activity on the part of the listener

## 2.0 TYPES OF LISTENING

Listening can be developed but it takes practice. Whether you are interested in improving your networks, acquiring a new client, or improving your connection with your family, strong listening skills can help. Below are just a few effective listening styles

### 1. *Deep Listening*

Deep listening happens when you strike to understand the speakers point of view. This includes paying attention to both verbal and non-verbal cues, such as the words used ,the speakers body language and his tone. This type of listening assists to build trust and mutual understanding, and also helps others feel comfortable expressing their thoughts and opinions.

### 2. *Full Listening.*

Full listening involves paying close attention to what the speaker is saying. This often includes using active listening techniques, such as paraphrasing what was said to the person you are talking to, to make sure you understand their messages. Full listening is useful in class, when someone is instructing you on how to complete a task, and when discussing work projects with superiors.

### 3. *Critical Listening*

Critical listening involves using systematic reasoning and careful thought to analyse a speaker's message and separate fact from opinion. Critical listening is often useful in situations when speakers may have a certain agenda or goal, such as watching political debates, or when a salesperson is pitching a product or service.

### 4. *Therapeutic Listening*

Therapeutic listening means allowing a friend, colleague, or family member to discuss their problems. It involves emphasizing and applying supportive non-verbal cues, such as nodding and maintaining eye contact, in addition to empathizing with their experiences.

## 3.0 USEFUL STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE LEARNING OF LISTENING

1. Read the questions, ensure you understand them and underline the key words.

In the questions, **the key words are often:**

- ✓ *Nouns:* people or things (e.g., "English Learners", "school", "University", "egg", or "door")
- ✓ *Verbs:* actions words (e.g., "attend", "collect", "make", "", or "play")
- ✓ *Adjectives:* words that describe nouns (e.g., "historical" or "beautiful", "interesting", "smart", "massive", "small")
- ✓ *Prepositions:* e.g., , "at", "in", "on" "». "before" "after".
- ✓ *Question words:* e.g., "who", "when". "where", "how many/much", "why", "how", "how often". "How much", "how far", "how long", etc.

Example:

When is Anna's birthday? (The keywords are underlined)

How much does it cost? (The keywords are underlined)

How many books did he buy last week (The keywords are underlined)

2. Predict answer types (e.g. name, number, noun, adjective, verb, singular, plural).

**While listening:**

- Listen carefully to the instructions.
- Understand the instructions and questions.
- Understand the instructions and questions.
- Only look at the key words you underlined. Do not read everything again.
- Do not lose your concentration even for a moment.

If you lose focus at any time, you can not only miss an answer, but you can lose your place in the recording; and then it's very difficult to locate the following answers.

- Note that the answers are always in order.

3. Learn about the types of questions

There are variety of different types of questions and you have to practice each of them..If you Know and have a strategy, there will not be any barriers with listening. It is often thought that one of the most difficult types of questions is the multiple choice which is often where you have A, B, or C option to select from. I personally used these strategies in Multiple choice, which helped me a lot:

- ✓ Read the questions carefully
- ✓ Understand what is asking
- ✓ Realize the differences between choices
- ✓ Underline key words
- ✓ All choices will be mentioned
- ✓ Be careful distractors
- ✓ Eliminate the wrong choices
- ✓ Choose the best answer by focusing on the meaning
- ✓ Always analyse your mistakes, because they are places that you need to grow

*A good illustration of this is that:*

**When Anna and Jack have decided to meet?**

- A) on Monday
- B) on Wednesday
- C) on Saturday

Common traps. These are ways that IELTS really attempt to test your understanding and your vocabulary. Now I'll give an example of a common trap. This is when the answers are given. For instance:

*Shall we meet on Monday?*

*Yes, definitely. Let's meet on Monday*

*So we've got the answer "5 o'clock", but then it's changed and the speaker says:*

*"Oh, actually sorry. How about on Wednesday?"*

So suddenly instead of the answer being Monday, it is now Wednesday. So, when you listen and you hear your answer obviously, you can make a note of the answer but keep listening because that answer could be changed. Be careful with that. Another type of trap is when you have the same words in the question and the same words in the recording. Of course, people immediately think "oh this is my answer" but actually that could be a trap.

Repeated answers. when there were given three or four people having a discussion; and certainly when they are discussing something, people might say

*"is this what you mean"?*

*"Do you mean this?" And the answer could be*

*repeated again and that can help you to locate the answer.*

Listening for plural nouns. It is broad that many foreign language speakers struggle to hear plurals, so you need to pay attention to "does that word have an "S" on the end or not?" If you have a sentence completion, sometimes you can come across with the grammar that you need a plural answer. Therefore, just take a look, but keep your ears open for those plurals.

There are three main strategies that assist you improve your listening for plurals.

**Strategy 1:** know your uncountable nouns because they do not have the "S" on the end (e.g. advice, information, equipment, milk, water, happiness, furniture).

**Strategy 2:** know your vocabulary and spelling, for example, "grass roots" . It always has an "S" that is how the word is written. Obviously, this is an English language test and this is testing your vocabulary.

**Strategy 3:** be careful of linking sounds. That's very essential because they can make it very difficult to hear the "S" and if that happens, you need to use grammar to help you. If the "S" is not clear, think of the grammar and think about the articles. Is there an article "a" in the question? If there isn't, listen for the article "a" in the audio. *Pay attention to any information that answers the questions what?, when?, where?, how?, who?, why?*

Example:

What: an action movie.

When: last night.

Where: at the cinema.

How: interesting, fun.

Who: Jackie Chain, Bruce Willis, Dominic Purcell

This method is very important and works in all sections of the IELTS Listening test. Furthermore, due to the words used in the Listening test questions may not be exactly the same as the words you hear in the listening passages. Therefore, when you learn a new word, you need to develop a wide range of vocabulary by learning synonyms for that word.

*The original sentence:* I dislike reading comic books

*The Paraphrased sentence:* Reading is not cup of my tee

*The original sentence* "Watching films develops people's imagination."

*The paraphrased sentence:*

"People's imagination development is a positive effect of watching films."

"Film watchers can develop their imagination

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **The Analysis of the Data collected from Questionnaire**

It replaced the language of Latin that had been noted in the 17th century. At the present time, English has been developing day after day and becoming an international language. It is important to clarify the definition of listening.

On the basis of Hamouda (2013), 65% of 34 students have an obstacle with understanding the text. which is given during the listening and unfamiliar words, that include jargon and idioms, due to poor vocabulary 34% of students have difficulty understanding the meaning of spoken language, 76% of students, 53% of the 34 students answered that they are afraid when they can't understand what they're hearing, so they are not able to understand Listening; 88% of students feel anxious when they do not understand spoken English, 56% of the students were unable to understand what they were hearing because of their illegible pronunciation. Moreover, 34 students 74% of them lost their attention and heard new words while concentrating. 82% of 34 students had difficulty realise words. In addition to 82% of 34 students had barrier predicting what would happen next, 74% of 34 students had difficulty remembering words or phrases quickly when they first heard it, and 34 students 65% of people have difficulty answering questions except for short answers, 74% of them lost their attention and heard new words while concentrating. 82% of 34 students had difficulty recognizing words, 82% of 34 students had difficulty predicting what would happen next, 74% of 34 students had difficulty remembering words or phrases quickly when they first heard it, and 34 students 65% of people have difficulty answering questions except for short answers, 76% of 34% students have difficulty understanding when the speakers have different accents

### **The Result of Interview**

According to the students who answered the first question, what questions will affect your listening comprehension as a listener? During the interview, all the students in the audience found that when the voice is too low, the voice is unclear, the speaker's intonation is too fast, the idiom is not clear, the concentration is not concentrated, the vocabulary is lacking, the speaker is unclear, and the sound quality is poor. Also, the second question was that "What makes them lose concentration in listening comprehension?" it can be drawn from the results that many students feel bored and sleepy When their words are only glanced at, they only focus on the meaning and the meaning of their thinking. New words and searched answers, sometimes listening to the recording, when the tape recorder is of poor quality, the room is noisy, and the surrounding is a lot of noise, the speaker is not distinct, when there is another voice, the speaker is difficult to understand, when they are sick, and when they think of other things. Furthermore, The interview results for the third question "what are the difficulties in the listening materials", they replied that it can not hear clearly, for example, the pronunciation is too fast, the speaker is too fast, the intonation is too fast and not clear, and the spoken text is too long and difficult to hear. The speaker speaks quickly after a short pause and is difficult to understand (translation). Some students have an issue with vocabulary. When there are new words and it is difficult to understand. Many foreign languages do not understand idioms and feel poor equipment, do not understand the basic materials.

To sum up, it is clear that the ability of listening is an essential part of English as a foreign language and helps us understand the world around us and is one of the crucial element to create successful communication, this is mainly because there is no communication where there is no human interaction. However, there are some difficulties with this skill among individuals, particularly who are learning the new language such as English. Obviously, there were said that most of them do not understand the conversation due to the lack of vocabulary during the listening, not able to catch the answer, lose the concentration. In this article I attempted to illustrate some useful and effective strategies to improve the listening skill.

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