

**BOGAZICI UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES
WRITING & ACADEMIC SUPPORT
CENTER
(WASC)**

**Workshop: How to Develop Listening
Skills while Learning English**

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Workshop: How to Develop Listening Skills while Learning English

Learning to listen effectively is crucial for mastering the English language. Listening helps you understand the nuances of spoken English, improve your pronunciation, and develop fluency. In this workshop, you'll discover strategies and techniques to enhance your listening skills and become a confident English listener.

Topic 1: Active Listening

What is Active Listening?

Active listening is not just passively hearing the words being spoken; it's about actively engaging with the speaker and the material. It's about making connections, predicting what might come next, and summarizing key points.

Why is Active Listening Important?

Active listening is essential for effective communication and language learning. When you actively listen, you:

- Improve your understanding of the speaker's message
- Enhance your ability to remember information
- Develop your comprehension skills in different accents and speech patterns
- Boost your confidence in listening to English conversations

Strategies for Active Listening

Here are some practical strategies for active listening:

- **Focus on the Speaker:** Pay full attention to the speaker, maintaining eye contact and minimizing distractions.
- **Predict what the speaker might say** based on the context.
- **Summarize key points and main ideas** in your own words.
- **Ask clarifying questions** to ensure you understand the speaker's message.
- **Pay attention to nonverbal cues**, such as facial expressions and body language.
- **Paraphrase:** Summarize what you've heard in your own words to reinforce comprehension.

Topic 2: Vocabulary Learning and Listening

The Connection Between Vocabulary and Listening

Expanding your vocabulary is essential for improving your listening comprehension. The more words you know, the better equipped you'll be to understand the nuances of spoken English.

Strategies for Learning Vocabulary from Listening

- Use context clues to infer the meaning of unfamiliar words.
- Pay attention to repetitive words and phrases, as they often convey important information.
- Look up unfamiliar words in a dictionary or online resource.
- Create flashcards or vocabulary lists to reinforce new words.

Integrating Vocabulary Practice with Listening

- Listen to audio materials that match your vocabulary level.
- Pause the audio and write down unfamiliar words.
- Listen to the audio again, focusing on understanding the meaning of the unfamiliar words.
- Use the new words in your own sentences or writing.
- Use Technology: Leverage language learning apps and online resources offering audio content with transcripts.
- Create Word Lists: Jot down new words encountered during listening activities and review them regularly.
- Listen to Varied Content: Explore podcasts, audiobooks, and TED Talks to expose yourself to diverse vocabulary.

Topic 3: Note-Taking

The Benefits of Note-Taking for Listening

Note-taking can be a powerful tool for enhancing your listening comprehension. It helps you:

- Focus on key points and information
- Organize and retain information more effectively
- Identify important details and supporting evidence
- Review and reflect on the material later

Effective Note-Taking Techniques

- Use abbreviations and symbols to save time.
- Develop your own shorthand system.
- Outline the main points and subpoints.
- Use mind maps to visualize relationships between ideas.
- Organize Information: Use headings, bullet points, and numbers to structure your notes logically.
- Capture Key Ideas: Focus on main ideas, supporting details, and keywords rather than trying to transcribe verbatim.

Practicing Note-Taking while Listening

- Listen to a short audio passage and take notes using your chosen technique.
- Review your notes and identify key points.
- Listen to the audio passage again and compare your notes to the spoken content.
- Repeat the process with different audio materials.
- Review and Revise: After the listening activity, review and revise your notes to reinforce understanding.

Topic 4: Technology for Listening

Technology Tools for Enhancing Listening Skills

Technology offers a wealth of resources for improving your listening comprehension. Here are some examples:

- Podcasts: Access a vast library of audio content on various topics and interests.
- Audiobooks: Immerse yourself in captivating stories and enhance your vocabulary.
- Language Learning Apps: Engage in interactive listening exercises and personalized learning plans.
- Online Listening Comprehension Exercises: Practice understanding different accents and speech patterns.
- Online Videos and Podcasts: Engage with Englishlanguage videos and podcasts on platforms like YouTube and Spotify.
- Interactive Websites: Use websites that offer interactive listening exercises with quizzes and activities.
- Language Exchange Apps: Connect with native speakers on language exchange platforms to practice listening in real conversations.

Utilizing Technology Effectively

- Select audio materials that match your interests and listening level.
- Start with short audio clips and gradually increase the length.
- Use transcripts or subtitles to support your understanding.
- Listen repeatedly to reinforce new vocabulary and grammar structures.
- Engage in interactive exercises to test your comprehension.

Resources:

1. **Listen English Daily Practice:** This app offers a wide variety of listening exercises, from beginner to advanced levels. You can listen to dialogues, news stories, and other audio content, and then answer questions to check your comprehension. The app also includes a built-in dictionary and grammar checker.
2. **EnglishPod101:** This app provides a comprehensive English learning experience, including listening lessons, vocabulary exercises, and grammar explanations. The listening lessons are categorized by level, so you can find material that is appropriate for your current proficiency.
3. **Ello:** This app connects you with native English speakers who are willing to help you practice your listening and speaking skills. You can chat with them online, or participate in group conversations.
4. **Memrise:** This app uses flashcards and other interactive exercises to help you learn English vocabulary and grammar. It also includes listening exercises, which you can do at your own pace.
5. **Duolingo:** This app is a popular choice for beginners, as it offers a gamified approach to learning English. You can earn points and badges for completing lessons, and track your progress over time.
6. **BBC Learning English:** This app is produced by the BBC, and it offers a wide variety of English learning resources, including listening lessons, grammar explanations, and vocabulary exercises.
7. **English Listening and Speaking:** This app is designed to help you improve your English listening and speaking skills. It offers a variety of exercises, including dialogues, news stories, and interviews.
8. **English Listening Practice – World Talks:** This app provides access to a library of TED Talks, which are short, informative presentations on a variety of topics. You can listen to the talks at your own pace, and then answer questions to check your comprehension.
9. **Learn to Speak English:** This app offers a variety of listening exercises, from beginner to advanced levels. You can also use the app to practice your speaking skills by recording yourself and getting feedback from a native English speaker.
10. **Listen Pal:** This app is designed to help you improve your English listening comprehension by providing you with access to a library of audio content, including news stories, interviews, and conversations. You can also use the app to record yourself and get feedback from a native English speaker.

WEBSITES

- **BBC Learning English:** This website offers a wide variety of listening lessons, from beginner to advanced levels. The lessons are categorized by topic, so you can find ones that interest you. You can also listen to news stories, interviews, and other audio content.
- **British Council LearnEnglish:** This website is another great resource for English learners. It offers a variety of listening exercises, as well as grammar explanations, vocabulary lists, and more. You can also take a free online English test to determine your level.
- **ESLpod101:** This website offers a subscription-based service that provides access to a library of listening lessons. The lessons are categorized by level and topic, and you can also choose from a variety of different accents.
- **VoiceTube:** This website is a great resource for listening to authentic English. It features a variety of videos, from news reports to movie clips. You can also slow down the audio and read the transcript.
- **TuneIn:** This website is a great way to listen to English radio stations from all over the world. You can search for stations by genre, location, or language.
- **Podcast Addict:** This website is a great way to find and subscribe to English podcasts. You can search for podcasts by genre, topic, or language.
- **Audible:** This website is a great way to listen to audiobooks. You can find audiobooks in a variety of genres, including fiction, non-fiction, and self-help.
- **LingQ:** This website is a great way to learn English through extensive reading. You can read articles, books, and other texts, and then listen to the audio. You can also take quizzes to check your comprehension.
- **News in Slow English:** This website offers a variety of news stories that have been read slowly and deliberately. This is a great way to improve your listening comprehension.
- **Real English Podcasts:** This website offers a variety of podcasts that feature native English speakers talking about everyday topics. This is a great way to improve your listening comprehension and learn new vocabulary.

For IELTS & TOEFL Listening Practice

General English listening practice websites

- **BBC Learning English:** This website offers a wide variety of listening lessons, from beginner to advanced levels. The lessons are categorized by topic, so you can find ones that interest you. You can also listen to news stories, interviews, and other audio content.
- **British Council LearnEnglish:** This website is another great resource for English learners. It offers a variety of listening exercises, as well as grammar explanations, vocabulary lists, and more. You can also take a free online English test to determine your level.
- **VoiceTube:** This website is a great resource for listening to authentic English. It features a variety of videos, from news reports to movie clips. You can also slow down the audio and read the transcript.

- **ESLpod101:** This website offers a subscription-based service that provides access to a library of listening lessons. The lessons are categorized by level and topic, and you can also choose from a variety of different accents.

TOEFL listening practice websites

- **TOEFL Practice Online (TPO) Tests:** This website is offered by ETS, the official developer of the TOEFL exam. It provides free access to two full-length TOEFL iBT practice tests, including listening tests. You will need to create an account to access the tests.
- **TOEFL Listening Practice - Free TOEFL Listening Test with Answers:** This website offers a free TOEFL listening test with answers. It also provides tips on how to improve your TOEFL listening score.
- **BestMyTest TOEFL:** This website offers a variety of free TOEFL practice materials, including listening tests. The listening tests are categorized by level and topic.

IELTS listening practice websites

- **British Council's IELTS Listening Practice Tests:** This website is offered by the British Council, a non-profit organization that provides English language learning and assessment services. It provides free access to a variety of practice materials, including listening tests.
- **IELTS Liz:** This website is run by Liz, an IELTS expert. She provides a variety of free IELTS listening lessons and practice tests.
- **Magoosh IELTS Listening Practice Tests:** This website provides a free IELTS listening practice test. The test is adapted to the current IELTS format and difficulty level.
- **TestMagic's IELTS Listening Practice Tests:** This website is run by TestMagic, a company that provides IELTS preparation materials. It provides free access to a variety of IELTS listening practice tests.

University-level Lecture & Note-taking:

1. **Coursera:** Coursera is an online learning platform that offers a variety of courses, including many university-level lectures. Students can watch these lectures and take notes at their own pace.
2. **edX:** edX is another online learning platform that offers a variety of courses, including many university-level lectures. Students can watch these lectures and take notes at their own pace.
3. **Udemy:** Udemy is an online learning platform that offers a variety of courses, including many university-level lectures. Students can watch these lectures and take notes at their own pace.
4. **MIT OpenCourseWare:** MIT OpenCourseWare is a website that offers free access to MIT course materials, including lectures, notes, and assignments.
5. **Stanford OpenClassroom:** Stanford OpenClassroom is a website that offers free access to Stanford course materials, including lectures, notes, and assignments.
6. **University of California, Berkeley, webcast.berkeley.edu:** This website offers free access to webcasts of University of California, Berkeley lectures.
7. **University of Oxford, podcasts.ox.ac.uk:** This website offers free access to podcasts of University of Oxford lectures.

8. **Imperial College London, www3.imperial.ac.uk/podcasts:** This website offers free access to podcasts of Imperial College London lectures.
9. **London School of Economics and Political Science, www.lse.ac.uk/podcasts:** This website offers free access to podcasts of London School of Economics and Political Science lectures.
10. **University College London, www.ucl.ac.uk/ucltv/browse:** This website offers free access to video recordings of University College London lectures.

Podcasts:

Beginner Level

- **ESLPod101:** ESLPod101 offers a variety of podcasts for beginners, covering everyday topics like introductions, shopping, and travel. The podcasts are slow-paced and use simple vocabulary, making them easy to understand for learners at the beginner level.
- **Listen English Daily Practice:** This podcast provides short and engaging listening exercises for beginners. Each episode focuses on a specific topic and includes a variety of listening activities, such as dialogues, news stories, and interviews.
- **BBC Learning English:** BBC Learning English offers a variety of podcasts for different levels, including a series specifically designed for beginners. The podcasts cover a wide range of topics, from current events to culture and history.

Intermediate Level

- **Voice of America Learning English:** Voice of America Learning English offers a variety of podcasts for intermediate learners, covering a wide range of topics from news and current events to science and technology. The podcasts are hosted by native English speakers and use natural-speed audio.
- **6 Minute English:** This podcast from the BBC World Service provides a quick and engaging way to practice your listening skills. Each episode focuses on a current news topic and includes discussions, interviews, and vocabulary exercises.
- **The English We Speak:** This podcast from the BBC World Service focuses on everyday English expressions. Each episode explains a different idiom or phrase and provides examples of how it is used in context.

Advanced Level

- **The Economist:** This podcast from The Economist magazine covers a wide range of topics, from politics and economics to culture and technology. The podcasts are hosted by native English speakers and use natural-speed audio.
- **This American Life:** This podcast features real-life stories told by ordinary people. The stories are often funny, touching, and thought-provoking.

- **Radiolab:** This podcast explores a wide range of topics, from science and technology to philosophy and culture. The podcasts are often experimental and thought-provoking.