

STRATEGIES FOR DEVELOPING LISTENING COMPREHENSION SKILLS IN PRIMARY SCHOOL LEARNERS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

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Abstract, This article explores strategies for developing listening comprehension skills in primary school learners within the context of English language teaching (ELT). Listening comprehension is a vital skill in language acquisition, and its development is essential for effective communication. This paper examines various practical methods and techniques that teachers can apply to improve listening comprehension in young learners.

Keywords: listening comprehension, primary school, English language teaching, strategies, interactive activities, listening skills.

Annotatsiya, ushbu maqolada boshlang'ich sinf o'quvchilarining ingliz tilini o'rganishda tinglab tushunish ko'nikmalarini rivojlantirish strategiyalari yoritiladi. Tinglab tushunish til o'zlashtirishning muhim jihatlaridan biri bo'lib, samarali muloqotni ta'minlashda asosiy rol o'ynaydi. Maqolada o'qituvchilar yosh o'quvchilarning tinglab tushunish ko'nikmalarini rivojlantirishda qo'llashi mumkin bo'lgan turli uslubiy yondashuvlar va amaliy metodlar tahlil qilinadi.

Kalit so'zlar: tinglab tushunish, boshlang'ich maktab, ingliz tilini o'qitish, strategiyalar, interaktiv mashg'ulotlar, tinglash ko'nikmalari.

Аннотация, в данной статье рассматриваются стратегии развития навыков аудирования у учеников начальной школы в контексте преподавания английского языка. Аудирование является важным компонентом в изучении языка и играет ключевую роль в эффективном общении. В статье анализируются различные практические методы и подходы, которые учителя могут использовать для улучшения навыков восприятия речи на слух у младших школьников.

Ключевые слова: аудирование, начальная школа, преподавание английского языка, стратегии, интерактивные упражнения, навыки восприятия на слух.

Introduction

Listening comprehension is one of the most crucial skills in language learning. For young learners, developing this skill in English is especially important as it enables them to understand spoken language, follow instructions, and interact with others.

Teachers must employ strategies that are engaging, appropriate for the developmental stage of their students, and aligned with their learning needs. This article provides several strategies for improving listening comprehension in primary school learners, offering examples for effective classroom application.

Main Body

Interactive Listening Activities

Engaging young learners with interactive activities is a powerful strategy for developing listening skills. These activities are designed to keep students actively involved in the learning process, helping them retain and comprehend spoken language. Example: A variation of "Simon Says," called "Listen and Act", involves the teacher giving students a series of commands (e.g., "Hop on one foot" or "Clap your hands") and having them perform the actions. This game encourages students to focus on understanding instructions and reacting in real-time. Example: "Listening for Details" involves playing an audio clip and asking students to listen for specific details such as numbers, colors, or names. For example, after listening to a short story about a birthday party, students can be asked to note down how many people attended and what gifts were given. This task encourages students to hone in on specific details within the listening material.

Use of Visual Aids and Multimedia

Visual aids such as pictures, charts, and flashcards help young learners connect spoken language with visual cues, enhancing comprehension. In addition, multimedia resources, including videos, offer a dynamic and engaging way to develop listening skills. Example: A teacher can show pictures of animals and then play an audio clip where the animals are named and described. Students can then match the animal pictures to the correct names. This visual and auditory combination reinforces the vocabulary being taught. Example: Educational videos like those on YouTube or apps such as "Storybird" can offer students clear, slow-paced dialogues or stories that help them build a strong foundation for listening comprehension. The visual aspect of these videos helps make abstract concepts more concrete.

Gradual Increase in Complexity .It is important to introduce listening tasks gradually. Teachers should start with simple, slow-paced audio and progressively increase the complexity as students' skills improve. This approach prevents students from feeling overwhelmed and helps build their confidence in understanding spoken English. Example: Initially, a teacher might play a simple, 30-second clip of a conversation between two characters. As students progress, longer and more complex dialogues or stories can be introduced. For instance, after listening to short phrases, students could be asked to listen to a short story, followed by comprehension questions. Example: At first, students may listen to a slow-paced song with clear lyrics. As they improve, they can move on to songs with faster tempos or more complex vocabulary,

gradually challenging their comprehension abilities.

Listening for Specific Information

Focusing on specific details helps students improve their ability to listen attentively and extract important information from spoken language. This strategy trains learners to recognize key words and main ideas.

Example: In a listening task, students might be asked to listen for the name of a person, place, or date mentioned in a recording. For instance, after listening to a description of a family, students could be asked to identify the names of the family members. items mentioned, such as foods, clothes, or places. Afterward, students could answer questions about the items they heard.

Pair and Group Work Pair and group work activities give students the opportunity to practice listening in a social context, allowing them to share and discuss their understanding of the content. This fosters communication and collaboration, which are important for language development. Example: After listening to a story, students could pair up and discuss the main ideas. One student might summarize the beginning of the story, while the other discusses the middle and end. This exercise reinforces listening and comprehension through peer interaction. Example: In group work, students might listen to a set of instructions for a task, such as building a tower from blocks. By working together, they help each other understand the details of the task, further enhancing their listening comprehension.

Encouraging Extensive Listening

Extensive listening encourages students to listen to a variety of English-language materials, both in and outside of the classroom. This exposure helps students develop a better understanding of different speech patterns, vocabulary, and contexts. Example: Teachers can recommend children's podcasts like "English Class 101" or simple audiobooks that are suitable for their age and language level. Listening to such resources allows students to engage with authentic language in a fun and low-pressure way. Example: Listening to songs in English, followed by discussions or activities based on the lyrics, can enhance both vocabulary and listening skills. For example, after listening to a song about animals, students can identify and discuss the animals mentioned in the song.

Pre-Listening Activities

Pre-listening activities are essential for preparing students to engage with the listening material. These activities activate prior knowledge, set expectations, and help students predict what they will hear, making it easier for them to comprehend the material when they listen. Example: Before playing a recording of a story about a trip to the zoo, a teacher might ask students to talk about animals they have seen at the zoo or what they expect to hear in the story. This primes their minds for the content and helps them focus on key details. Example: For a listening task about shopping, the

teacher can ask students to list things they would typically buy. This makes the listening task more relatable and helps students anticipate the content of the listening exercise.

Modeling and Repetition

Repetition is a key strategy in developing listening skills. Teachers should model listening by playing the audio multiple times, allowing students to focus on different elements of the material with each repetition. This reinforces learning and deepens comprehension. Example: A teacher could play an audio recording of a short dialogue between two people. The first time, students may listen for the main idea. On subsequent listenings, students can focus on specific details, such as the vocabulary used or the pronunciation of certain words. Example: A teacher may play a song or story multiple times, each time asking students to focus on different aspects of the language, such as the intonation, the use of specific phrases, or the rhythm of the language.

Conclusion, Developing listening comprehension in primary school learners is crucial for their overall language development. By using strategies such as interactive activities, multimedia tools, gradual complexity, and collaborative tasks, teachers can create a rich environment for listening practice. Encouraging extensive listening, pre-listening activities, and repetition further supports the development of these skills. With careful planning and the right techniques, teachers can help their students become more proficient listeners, ultimately laying the groundwork for better language proficiency in all areas.

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