



Teaching Pathways: How to teach listening

Teaching and learning resources

MODULE ONE – UNDERSTANDING LISTENING SKILLS

This module helped us to analyse learner needs and identify appropriate ways of meeting them – equipped with an understanding of listening subskills and the purposes they serve. We explored the differences between in-class and real-life listening and made links between learning activities and the specific listening sub-skills they develop. In addition to designing and planning listening activities for the classroom, module 1 also provided practice of evaluating problems associated with teaching listening and identifying appropriate solutions.

MODULE TWO – ENGAGING WITH ACTIVE LISTENING

The second module was focused on the nature and development of active listening skills. It began by defining active listening and clarifying the skills and strategies associated with it. We explored potential blocks, in addition to strategies for developing active listening skills in the classroom. Finally we evaluated how effective active listening skills are beneficial for teachers, as well as language learners.

MODULE THREE – ENGAGING WITH LISTENING STRATEGIES

In this final module of the course, by contrasting the features of spoken and written English we explored the impact of intonation and non-verbal communication on meaning, and how these are exploited by effective listeners. Examples of transactional and interactional listening and related sub-skills were examined. Finally, the module, and course, was rounded off by analysing and planning classroom activities that promote strategies for effective listening.



FURTHER READING, MATERIALS AND LEARNING RESOURCES

READING

| Description | Link |
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| Students love listening to songs in class - here are some simple suggestions for how to use songs to improve listening skills in the classroom | https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/listening-activities-songs |

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| <p>Catherine Morely explores the difference between top-down and bottom-up listening, and gives suggestions for how to give students practice in these two listening skills in the classroom</p> | <p>https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/listening-top-down-bottom</p> |
| <p>Raphael Ahmed shares strategies that develop five essential listening skills for language learners.</p> | <p>https://www.britishcouncil.org/oices-magazine/five-essential-listening-skills-english-learners</p> |
| <p>In this article Wendy Arnold explores learning theories related to listening, and how we can apply them in the classroom to help young learners improve their active listening skills</p> | <p>https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/listening-young-learners</p> |
| <p>What pre-listening tasks work well in the classroom? This article looks at why we do pre-listening tasks and gives some suggestions for tasks that can be used with any type of audio.</p> | <p>https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/pre-listening-activities</p> |
| <p>Kevin Thomson discusses why listening can be a challenge for teenagers and shares some suggestions that may help teachers overcome them.</p> | <p>https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/helping-teens-listen?fbclid=IwAR3EtZQ-tQhQBwvcRwpyOyAdNgO-adPFksi-v3gO1RIxavqc60W9KyfCZNq</p> |
| <p>An Edutopia article on the value of active listening.</p> | <p>https://www.edutopia.org/article/value-active-listening</p> |
| <p>Nik Peachey looks at how by giving students more authentic listening tasks, we can better prepare them for the listening skills they will need in real life.</p> | <p>https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/making-listening-authentic-experience</p> |
| <p>Podcasts are a great way for students to get authentic listening practice. In this article Sandy Millin explores ways in which they can be exploited both by students and teachers.</p> | <p>https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/blogs/sandymillin/using-podcasts-develop-listening-skills</p> |
| <p>An Edutopia article on what good listening looks like and how appearances can be deceptive.</p> | <p>https://www.edutopia.org/article/what-does-good-listening-look</p> |
| <p>Nik Peachey explores a framework for a listening lesson incorporating pre, while and post-listening activities, with suggestions for how to apply this framework to a song in class.</p> | <p>https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/a-framework-planning-a-listening-skills-lesson</p> |



TEACHING MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

| Description | Link |
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| Download our Teaching Listening poster for your classroom, with lots of great ideas for fun listening activities. | https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/teaching-listening |
| A lesson plan to help older teens and adults become better at active listening. | https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/socialising-4-active-listening |
| In this lesson, students develop their listening skills as they watch a video about two travelling Youtubers. They will listen for detail and then discuss their opinions on the Vlogging lifestyle | https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/youtubing-road |
| If your students find exam listening difficult, this lesson plan about food festivals will help them to | https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/a-food-festival |

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| focus on the skills needed to successfully complete gap fill exercises. | |
| Listen to a man ask a colleague out on a date. Help your learners to improve listening skills with various suggested activities such as prediction, listening for emotions and listening for detail, and then get them to respond to what they hear and practice some of the language they have heard. | https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/situations-asking-a-date |
| A series of short monologues to use in class with a range of different levels - each one dealing with a different topic and using real colloquial language. Rants are people expressing themselves on topics they feel strongly about, and raves are people talking about their favourite things. | https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/rants-raves-listening-practice |
| This short activity encourages students to engage their higher level thinking skills and practise listening for general information and more detail as they listen to a photographer talking about an image he has taken of some graffiti, and the issues it raises. | https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/one-nation-under-cctv-lower-level |
| Primary learners can listen to four poems in this BritLit kit, focusing on rhyme and rhythm, with suggested classroom activities to accompany the audio. | https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/a-handful-poems-tony-mitton |
| In this lesson, students develop their gist listening skills whilst watching a video about multicultural UK | https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/multicultural-uk |

FURTHER VIEWING

| Description | Link |
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| Karen Waterston and Sinalie Perera discuss how to teach listening. | https://www.facebook.com/TeachingEnglish.BritishCouncil/videos/4540381949364488 |
| Developing bottom-up listening skills in the classroom. | https://www.facebook.com/TeachingEnglish.BritishCouncil/videos/3575180502496811/ |
| 4 tips for learners to improve their listening skills | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-gpFqtXCF4 |

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| Five essential listening skills for language learners. | https://www.facebook.com/TeachingEnglish.BritishCouncil/videos/3506787849349694/ |
| Anthony Antonopoulos and Marcus James discuss teaching ideas incorporating listening and reading texts. | https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=4061280173892186 |
| Wendy demonstrates how teachers can use a nursery rhyme for a fun listening lesson. | https://www.facebook.com/TeachingEnglish.BritishCouncil/videos/1596148074106489/ |
| Authentic input in listening isn't just for higher level students. In this webinar, Lewis Lansford, co-author of Keynote looks at how we can get students of any level to engage with authentic input, using a series of Ted Talks to create successful lessons. | https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/engaging-ears-eyes-brains-minds-authentic-listening-every-level |

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR TEACHERS

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| British Council Teacher Community (Facebook). | https://www.facebook.com/groups/1095104140523615 |
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