Understanding Types of Listening Skills Such as Intensive and Extensive

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Abstract: This article deals with the skills of differentiating types of listening. Using listening skills effectively during the lesson and the role of importance of them in the teaching-learning process was defined with real examples. The object of the research is the presenting information in a new and helpful manner so that students get a better understanding of what they are taught. Utilizing different kinds of listening methods in the classroom help learners to reach their aim. Learning a variety of helpful listening skills make the process of doing exercises efficiently and learning simple, interesting, and effective which makes it easier for the teacher to teach even the most difficult listening tasks. It also makes sense and saves time as students learn and understand the meaning very quickly by listening rather than reading.

Key words: basic component, language acquisition, target language, focus on overall meaning, extensive listening, duolingo, authentic media, intensive listening practice.

INTRODUCTION

Intensive listening focuses primarily on brief listening exercises. While they usually only take a few minutes, they offer focused, intense practice.

This is because intensive listening focuses mostly on form. When you do intensive listening practice, you’re paying most attention to pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary, rather than overall meaning.

By focusing on these aspects, intensive listening practice helps students build a ground work for language acquisition. Since you’re understanding basic component parts of the language, you can build on these skills over time.

Because it serves to help listeners understand key foundational aspects of language, intensive listening is particularly important for beginning and intermediate students.

It is beneficial to use learning websites with audio components to improve intensive listening skills.

There are many useful websites you can use to do intensive listening practice since so many feature brief audio activities. Duolingo is one such website that uses a mix of audio and written activities. The audio is helpful intensive listening practice because the activities force you to focus on grammar and vocabulary that you’ve just learned. Use a good translation app with audio, like Google Translate.

Google Translate (available for iOS or Android) allows you to type in whatever phrase you want translated. However, it doesn’t just translate the text—it can also pronounce that translation. This makes it easy to use Google Translate for intensive listening practice with any phrase or block of text you like. You might even try pasting a chunk of text from a website you’re reading. Translate a text from your native language to your target language to hear how the word order changes and what individual vocabulary words are used. Since this is an automated translation,
just be aware that there may be errors or inaccuracies in overall meaning, so you’ll want to make verifying it’s correct part of your exercise. Or try translating text from your target language into English (or your native language). While listening to it in your target language, you can see what it means in your native language, making it easier to focus on individual words and to see how they correspond to your native language. This focus on structure and vocabulary is perfect for intensive listening practice. Do guided activities that force you to focus on the basic parts of the language. Guided listening practice with questions to test your skills will help you pay more attention to the activity itself. For instance, lyrics training offers brief music videos with exercises. You choose a difficulty level and are asked to fill in words. This forces you to focus on structure and vocabulary.

Extensive listening focuses on longer activities. These may vary from something that’s a few minutes long to several hours long.

Rather than focusing on individual parts, extensive listening focuses on overall understanding. With extensive listening, you don’t have to translate each word or focus on grammar rules. Instead, you simply have to try to understand the audio as a whole. Because extensive listening focuses on overall understanding, extensive listening helps students understand spoken language in real-world contexts.

This is particularly important for intermediate and advanced students who are looking to transition from academic understanding of the language towards full fluency.

In addition, listening to audiobooks reforms the skills of listening.

Audiobooks are excellent for extensive listening practice because you’ll undoubtedly need to focus on overall meaning rather than individual words. Audible provides a wide array of options in a number of different languages, including Spanish, French, German, Italian, Russian and Portuguese. There’s also something for all levels of language student.

Beginners might try children’s books, which will use a more limited vocabulary. Intermediate students might try short stories, which are less overwhelming than full-length books. Advanced students can dive in with whatever audiobook appeals most. For instance, a beginning German student might try the children’s book “Der zweiköpfige Drache” (“The Two-headed Dragon”). An advanced Spanish student might try a gripping novel like “La Chica del Tren” (“The Girl on the Train”).

Indeed, watching authentic media makes an essential role in developing listening skills. Watching movies TV and other entertainment is useful for extensive listening. If you have trouble finding authentic media in your target language, YouTube is a treasure trove of material for virtually any language you might want to learn. You’re only limited by your search terms. You can find Russian movies, romantic Italian movies or virtually anything else you can think of. Like with audiobooks, it’s important to select media that’s at an appropriate level for you. To facilitate this, there are modern language learning programs that utilize this type of content for their teaching purposes. One example is FluentU, which uses bite-sized authentic videos featuring native speakers. The collection of clips is organized by topic and level, so you can easily find the content for your needs. Once you’ve practiced listening to a whole video, you can check your comprehension and learn vocabulary in context with the provided interactive subtitles, flashcards and personalized quizzes.

Media that’s intended for children works well for beginners, but you might also try action-packed entertainment that leans less heavily on dialogue. Intermediate students can try comedies, which usually offer more dialogue but don’t have overly intense or complex plots. Advanced students can try serious, vocabulary-intensive dramas to hone their extensive listening skills.

Spotlight Radio is the best item for language learners to improve listening skills. The site is about podcasts, stories, and news. The English is at almost normal level. Language learners can listen to and read at the same time. It uses a specially modified form of English to
make listening to the radio easier. It is suggested for beginning and intermediate levels.

By way of conclusion, I would say that intensive and extensive listening focus on very different skills. While intensive listening builds general, foundational skills, extensive listening focuses on training you to apply these skills to a real-world context. Both sets of skills are essential, so it’s important to do both types of listening practice. You need to know grammar, vocabulary and structure, but you also need to be able to actually apply your skills. Using both intensive and extensive listening skills effectively, gives great chance to communicate with foreigners immediately, reply asked questions automatically. Benefits of listening skills are followings.

Firstly, they help us to keep in touch with people, sharpen our interpersonal, social skills, improve communication and networking opportunities, prevent social isolation, help to overcome introversion. Secondly, promote personal growth, self-improvement, individual development, boost concentration and focus, enable our mind to block out negative thoughts and daily concerns, give inner peace and mindfulness.

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