

**EFFECTIVE METHODS FOR IMPROVING ENGLISH LISTENING SKILLS
AND ITS CONNECTION TO SPEAKING DEVELOPMENT**

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ABSTRACT: This paper investigates effective strategies for enhancing English listening skills and explores their intrinsic connection to speaking development. It emphasizes the pivotal role of listening as a foundation for communication competence, facilitating the acquisition of pronunciation, vocabulary, and natural speech patterns. The study discusses a range of practical methods, including active listening, shadowing, and exposure to authentic materials, which collectively strengthen both comprehension and oral fluency. Additionally, the research shows what types of interactive methods were used to enhance listening skills in developed countries, and shows the results of these methods on students in Uzbekistan. Furthermore, it highlights how consistent listening practice fosters confidence and responsiveness in real-life communication. By addressing the interdependence of listening and speaking, the paper underscores the necessity of integrating these skills to achieve holistic language proficiency in English learning.

АННОТАЦИЯ: В данной статье рассматриваются эффективные стратегии развития навыков аудирования по английскому языку и исследуется их тесная связь с развитием устной речи. Подчеркивается решающая роль аудирования как основы коммуникативной компетенции, способствующей овладению произношением, словарным запасом и естественными речевыми моделями. В исследовании обсуждаются различные практические методы, включая активное слушание, метод теневого повторения (shadowing) и использование аутентичных материалов, которые в совокупности укрепляют как понимание, так и устную беглость. Кроме того, работа показывает, какие интерактивные методы применяются для улучшения навыков аудирования в развитых странах, и демонстрирует результаты применения этих методов среди студентов в Узбекистане. Также подчеркивается, что регулярная практика аудирования способствует уверенности и скорости реакции в реальном общении. Рассматривая взаимозависимость аудирования и говорения, статья подчеркивает необходимость интеграции этих навыков для достижения всестороннего владения английским языком.

ANNOTATSIYA: Ushbu maqolada ingliz tili tinglab tushunish ko'nikmalarini rivojlantirishning samarali strategiyalari va ularning so'zlashuv ko'nikmasi bilan chambarchas bog'liqligi o'rganiladi. Tinglashning kommunikativ kompetensiyani

shakllantirishdagi hal qiluvchi roli - talaffuz, soʻz boyligi va tabiiy nutq naqshlarini oʻzlashtirishga yordam beruvchi asos sifatida taʼkidlanadi. Tadqiqotda faol tinglash, “shadowing” (soʻz ortidan takrorlash) usuli va haqiqiy materiallardan foydalanish kabi amaliy metodlar muhokama qilinadi, ular birgalikda tinglab tushunishni ham, ogʻzaki nutq ravonligini ham mustahkamlaydi. Shuningdek, maqolada rivojlangan mamlakatlarda qoʻllanilgan interaktiv metodlar va ularning Oʻzbekiston talabalari orasidagi natijalari tahlil qilinadi. Bundan tashqari, muntazam tinglash mashqlari oʻquvchilarning ishonchini va haqiqiy muloqotda tezkor javob berish qobiliyatini oshirishi qayd etiladi. Tinglash va soʻzlashuv oʻrtasidagi oʻzaro bogʻliqlikni yoritgan holda, maqola ushbu ikki koʻnikmani integratsiyalash zarurligini, ingliz tilini har tomonlama egallash uchun muhim shart ekanini taʼkidlaydi.

KEY WORDS: shadowing technique, note-taking method, imitation, American accent, repetition exercises, rhythm, natural expressions.

INTRODUCTION: In today’s fast-developing and interconnected world, communication has become the key to personal, academic, and professional success. Among all the skills that shape effective communication, listening stands as the foundation for understanding, interaction, and language development. Listening is not simply hearing words, it is an active process of interpreting meaning, emotion, and intent. In the field of English language learning, it is often said that “good listeners become good speakers,” because listening helps learners internalize pronunciation, rhythm, and natural expressions. In our modern global society, where international cooperation and digital communication are part of everyday life, strong listening skills are no longer optional, they are essential for connecting with people, ideas, and cultures across the world.

The importance of improving English listening skills has been recognized worldwide, and many countries have adopted interactive and practical approaches to develop this ability among students. For example, in Japan, schools integrate shadowing and audio repetition exercises into daily English lessons, allowing learners to imitate natural speech and improve both listening accuracy and pronunciation. In Finland, where education focuses heavily on learner autonomy, students use authentic English podcasts, interviews, and films to build listening comprehension in real-life contexts. South Korea emphasizes technology-based learning, using digital platforms and mobile applications to provide access to diverse English accents and dialogues.

In the United States, teachers often apply task-based learning methods, where students listen to problem-solving conversations or lectures and then complete interactive speaking tasks based on what they have heard. This approach strengthens both comprehension and speaking fluency. Meanwhile, in Uzbekistan, language institutions have recently introduced interactive classroom activities such as listening

circles, where students listen to audio materials together, discuss the content, and express opinions in English. This method promotes active engagement and creates a natural transition from listening to speaking practice. In the United Kingdom, English educators emphasize contextual listening, encouraging learners to focus on the meaning and situation rather than just the words, helping them understand tone, intention, and cultural nuance. All these examples show that listening is more than a passive skill, it is a dynamic process that opens the door to confident speaking and meaningful communication. As educational systems continue to evolve, countries across the world share one common goal: to help learners not only hear English, but truly understand and use it effectively. By exploring these international methods, this article aims to highlight how strengthening listening skills directly contributes to speaking development, forming the foundation of successful English communication in the modern world.

METHODS: This study is based on my personal teaching experience in my home village, where I worked with a group of students whose English level ranged from A1 (beginner) to B2 (upper-intermediate) within a period of three months. The main purpose was to help them develop their listening comprehension and confidence in understanding spoken English. To achieve this goal, I applied three major methods: test analysis, active listening with shadowing, and note-taking practice. Each method played a specific role in improving their listening and speaking performance. The first and most effective approach was analyzing listening tests rather than only completing them. After each listening exercise, we reviewed the audio in detail, discussed the types of questions, identified key phrases, and examined why certain answers were correct. This analytical process allowed students to recognize patterns, anticipate information, and develop critical listening skills. Instead of passively listening, they learned to understand context, tone, and speaker intention. As a result, their overall comprehension and accuracy improved significantly. The second method was active listening and the shadowing technique. Students were encouraged to listen to English songs, short interviews, and podcasts daily. They would repeat or “shadow” the speakers’ voices to imitate pronunciation, rhythm, and natural intonation. This method not only strengthened listening ability but also improved speaking fluency, as students became more confident in producing the sounds they heard. Over time, they began to communicate more naturally, with better pronunciation and timing. The third method involved note-taking during listening tasks, which helped students focus on key information and details. This strategy taught them how to organize ideas and remember essential points while listening to longer texts such as lectures or news reports. It also supported vocabulary development, as students would note unfamiliar words and review them later. Additionally, we incorporated vocabulary learning and spelling practice into listening sessions, which reinforced both recognition and retention.

Through these combined techniques, my students demonstrated remarkable progress. Within three months, their listening level rose from A1 to B2, reflecting not only improved comprehension but also greater confidence in real-life communication. These results show that when listening is approached actively, through analysis, repetition, and interaction, learners can achieve substantial and lasting improvement in their English proficiency. In order to explore effective ways to enhance students' communication abilities, I focused on integrating speaking and listening activities. Through this method, I realized that these two skills are strongly interconnected, improvement in one often leads to progress in the other. During the lessons, students were encouraged to listen carefully to short audio clips or real-life dialogues and then reproduce similar patterns in their own speech. This helped them not only to understand authentic pronunciation and intonation but also to practice expressing ideas naturally.

RESULTS: After three months of consistent practice, the results were truly inspiring. The students who started with very basic listening skills (around A1 level) were able to reach B2 level according to the Uzbekistan National English Level Certificate. Out of all the language components, listening showed the greatest improvement. What impressed me most was not only their test scores, but also their confidence. They began to understand spoken English more naturally, respond faster during conversations, and express their thoughts without hesitation.

The methods we used, analyzing listening tests, practicing shadowing, and taking notes while listening, helped them connect listening with speaking in a practical way. Many of them even started watching short videos or listening to English songs on their own, which showed how motivated they had become. Their attitude toward English learning changed completely; it was no longer just a school subject, but something they truly enjoyed.

Overall, these results proved that when students are taught with the right combination of techniques and encouragement, even a short period of time can lead to remarkable progress. Additionally, they were also able to develop their communication skills, vocabulary, and comprehension, because after analyzing the tests given in Cambridge books, they were able to speak like native speakers. They also learned new vocabulary came in tests and tricks in listening. At the end in their Multilevel certificates the highest section was listening and followed by speaking.

DISCUSSION: The results of this short-term learning experience showed that practical and interactive approaches can bring remarkable progress in students' listening and speaking skills. Among all the techniques applied, the most effective one turned out to be note-taking during listening tasks. This method trained students to focus on key information rather than trying to understand every single word. By writing down what they heard in short phrases, they became more attentive listeners and more confident speakers. Note-taking also encouraged them to think actively while listening,

connecting sounds, meanings, and sentence structures in real time.

Another highly efficient strategy was analyzing listening questions and audio scripts slowly and carefully. Instead of rushing to get the right answers, students learned to understand why a certain answer was correct. This analysis process deepened their comprehension and exposed them to natural speech patterns, intonation, and vocabulary used by native speakers. Over time, this practice made them more aware of how to form similar sentences in their own speaking.

What made these methods powerful was that they built a direct bridge between listening and speaking. When students clearly understood how ideas were expressed in English, they could reproduce the same structures and rhythm in their speech. In other words, good listening became the foundation for good speaking. This close connection proved that improving one skill naturally strengthens the other, especially when learners are encouraged to reflect, analyze, and actively participate in their own learning journey.

CONCLUSION: To sum up, this study clearly showed that improving listening skills is not only about doing exercises or listening to recordings again and again. It is about understanding the process, thinking deeply, and connecting what we hear with how we speak. Through the three months of work with my students in a small village, I witnessed how much can change when the right methods are used with patience and motivation. The combination of note-taking, analyzing listening tests, and active listening with shadowing proved to be extremely effective. Among them, note-taking stood out as the most powerful technique because it helped learners stay focused and remember important details. Analyzing questions carefully also built their critical thinking skills, allowing them to understand English in a deeper way. Bit by bit, they started to catch the meaning behind words, not just the sounds, and this made their listening feel more natural and enjoyable. What was most inspiring was how their speaking skills improved together with listening. As they listened more attentively and analyzed real speech, they started to copy natural pronunciation, rhythm, and expression. They became more confident and spontaneous when communicating in English.

This experience taught me that even in rural areas, with limited resources, students can reach high levels of English if they are given effective methods, consistent support, and encouragement. Listening is not just a skill — it is a bridge that connects understanding with expression. When we strengthen it, we also give learners the voice to share their thoughts with the world.

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