

HOW TO IMPROVE LISTENING SKILLS IN ENGLISH

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ARTICLE INFO.

Keywords: English language, listening comprehension, language skills, audio resources, learning techniques.

Annotation

This article explores methods to improve listening comprehension skills in English. The author presents effective and practical techniques, explaining ways to overcome difficulties encountered during the listening process. Opportunities for developing listening skills through various exercises, audio resources, and technology are discussed. The article offers useful tips and directions for English learners.

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Listening is one of the most important and challenging skills to master when learning a new language. Listening helps you to understand the meaning, context, and tone of the spoken language, as well as to communicate effectively and fluently with native speakers. Listening also helps you to improve your vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and accent. However, many learners struggle with listening, especially when it comes to fast, complex, or unfamiliar speech.

So, how to improve listening skills in English? What are the best strategies and resources to improve English listening? What are the skills required for acing an English level test, such as IELTS, TOEFL, or OET? In this blog post, we will answer these questions and provide you with some effective ways on how to improve listening skills in English language.

Tips to Improve English Language Listening Skills

Here are some tips and **ways to improve listening skills in English** and become a better listener:

Listen actively and attentively: Active listening means paying full attention to what you hear and trying to comprehend the message, rather than just hearing the sounds. Active listening also means engaging with the speaker, by asking questions, giving feedback, or showing interest.

Listen to a variety of sources and materials: One of the **best way to improve English listening skills**, you need to expose yourself to different types of spoken English, such as podcasts, audiobooks, radio, TV, movies, songs, lectures, speeches, conversations, etc. You also need to listen to different accents, dialects, and styles of English, such as American, British, Australian, Indian, formal, informal, etc.

Listen for the main idea and the details: When you listen to something, you should try to identify the main idea and the details of the speech. Listening for the main idea and the details helps you to understand the structure, logic, and purpose of the speech, as well as to remember the information

better.

Listen repeatedly and regularly: To understand **how to improve english speaking and listening skills** you need to practice listening repeatedly and regularly. Listening repeatedly means listening to the same material more than once, until you understand it fully and can summarize it in your own words.

Listen and read: To understand **how to improve english listening**, you can also listen and read at the same time. Listening and reading means listening to something while following the transcript, subtitles, or lyrics. Listening and reading helps you to improve your pronunciation, spelling, and grammar, as well as to learn new words and phrases.

Listen and write: To **improve english listening**, you can also listen and write at the same time. Listening and writing means listening to something and taking notes, summarizing, or answering questions. You can also listen audio to improve english and write in English, to practice your listening and writing skills in the same language.

Skills Required for Acing English Level Test

If you want to study, work, or live in an English-speaking country, you may need to take an English level test, such as IELTS, TOEFL, or OET. These tests assess your English language skills in four areas: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. To ace an English level test, you need to develop and demonstrate the following skills:

- **Listening comprehension:** Listening comprehension is the ability to understand and interpret the spoken language in various situations and contexts. To improve your listening comprehension, you need to listen to a variety of sources and materials, listen for the main idea and the details, listen actively and attentively, and listen and write.
- **Reading comprehension:** Reading comprehension is the ability to understand and analyze the written language in various formats and genres. To improve your reading comprehension, you need to read a variety of texts and materials, read for the main idea and the details, read actively and critically, and read and write.
- **Writing proficiency:** Writing proficiency is the ability to produce clear, coherent, and accurate texts in various styles and purposes. To improve your writing proficiency, you need to write a variety of texts and materials, write for the main idea and the details, write actively and creatively, and write and read.
- **Speaking fluency:** Speaking fluency is the ability to communicate effectively and confidently in the spoken language in various situations and contexts. To improve your speaking fluency, you need to speak a variety of topics and materials, speak for the main idea and the details, speak actively and politely, and speak and listen.

➤ Best TV series for English listening practice

- And the first thing in our discussion is, of course, our favorite TV shows. Who doesn't like to sit on the couch after a long day, turn on Netflix, and watch something fun and exciting? And the best thing is that you can benefit from this pleasant activity. Just choose the option from our list, and enjoy your time with charismatic characters, intriguing plots, and simple language to listen to.
- **A1: Extr@ (2002-2004)**
- If you are just starting your learning path but already want to watch a simple series and listen to native speakers, this show is perfect for you. Even though it was created specifically for English learners at the Elementary level, it is not as usual as you think it might be. It is the story of two girls

– Annie and Bridget – living in the same apartment in London. They are different but still good friends. The girls also have a neighbor named Nick.

➤ **A2: The Hollow (2018-2020)**

➤ If you are looking for a more challenging listening activity, try The Hollow. This relatively new Netflix animated show tells the story of three teens, Adam, Mira, and Kai. Unexpectedly, the guys find themselves in a parallel dimension. They don't know each other yet, so their main goal is to find a connection and understand why they came to this dangerous world. Since it is a cartoon show, it is aimed at the teenage audience. Therefore, it is pretty simple to listen to. The lines are straightforward and accompanied by actions, so you can easily understand unknown words from the context. And don't think that it won't be interesting for adults – an intriguing plot, unique characters, and great humor are perfect for an audience of different ages.

➤ **B1: Friends (1994-2004)**

➤ Although many people think this show is excellent for beginners, we disagree with that. Of course, it is great, but only if you know some basic knowledge. We recommend this show for students with a B1 English level who want to strengthen their listening skills. The characters talk quickly, and there are many slang phrases and jokes that you might not get with insufficient knowledge. Anyway, if your level is Intermediate or above, there is nothing better than Friends. The story of six friends – Monica, Rachel, Phoebe, Chandler, Joey, and Ross – living in New York City. You will laugh and cry, fall in love and get mad (because they were NOT on a break), and of course, you will practice your listening – classic American English in the show will come in handy for this.

➤ **B2: Sherlock (2010-2017)**

➤ Be warned; it is not easy to understand the English language in this show: the famous detective played by Benedict Cumberbatch speaks fast and is not always clear, even for advanced students. Scientific vocabulary also complicates perception. But no one is left indifferent to this adaptation of detective stories (as well as the British accent of the characters). So watch the series only if you're sure of your high level of English

English Language Courses Provided by OIDI

If you want to improve your English language skills and prepare for an English level test, you can enroll in one of the online courses provided by OIDI (Oxford International Digital Institute). OIDI is a global destination for high-quality, accredited online courses that deliver quality education powered by digital innovation. OIDI offers a range of English language courses for different levels and purposes, such as:

- **General English:** A course that helps you to improve your overall English skills and confidence in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. You will learn grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and communication strategies for different situations and contexts. You will also have access to interactive activities, feedback, and progress tests to monitor your learning.
- **English for Journalism:** A course that helps you to improve your English skills for working in journalism or media-related fields, such as reporting, editing, or blogging. You will learn how to write clear, concise, and accurate news stories, articles, or reviews, using appropriate style, tone, and structure. You will also learn how to conduct interviews, research sources, and use social media platforms.
- **English for Customer Service:** A course that helps you to develop your English skills for working in customer service roles, such as retail, hospitality, or tourism. You will learn how to communicate effectively and politely with customers, handle complaints, deal with problems, and provide

information. You will also learn the vocabulary, phrases, and expressions that are commonly used in customer service situations.

- **English for Creative Writing:** A course that helps you to unleash your creativity and express yourself in English through various forms of writing, such as fiction, poetry, or drama. You will learn how to use literary techniques, such as imagery, dialogue, or metaphor, to create engaging and original texts. You will also learn how to give and receive feedback, edit your work, and publish your writing.
- **English Skills Booster:** A course that helps you to boost your English skills in specific areas, such as writing, speaking, or grammar. You will focus on improving your accuracy, fluency, and clarity in your chosen skill. You will also practice using authentic and relevant materials, such as articles, podcasts, or videos, to enhance your learning.

The English-learning process usually consists of four main components – reading, speaking, writing, and, guess what, listening. Even though most people neglect this process, it is still essential for mastering your level. And you might think this is challenging since native speech can be difficult to understand even for C1 speakers. But truth be told, it's not. All you need to do is understand the reasons for your difficulties and learn how to eliminate them. So, the first topic in our discussion is why it is difficult to understand English when listening to it.

1. **Poor vocabulary.** Yes, it might be obvious, but it is still one of the main reasons. You can't listen to English words if you don't know their meanings. Of course, we are not telling you to learn all millions of words to become a professional listener. But the more, the merrier – expand your vocabulary, and you will see how your listening skills grow.
2. **Permanent translation.** This widespread mistake prevents you from learning English by listening. Remember the situation when you were trying to watch a movie in English for the first time? You've probably tried to translate every word and every line. As a result, you lose interest in the film and learning altogether. That is why it is essential to listen carefully – even if you don't know the words, you can endeavor to fill in blank spaces from context.
3. **Interrupting the speaker.** No matter how much you want to practice your listening skills, you can't do it if you keep interrupting the person speaking. It would be best to give yourself time to understand what the other person is saying before replying. If necessary, ask short questions to ensure you understand the information correctly.
4. **Losing focus.** When you ignore the speaker, you won't be able to catch all the details of the conversation. That is why it is essential to maintain eye contact and avoid distractions that can prevent you from focusing on what the other person is saying.
5. **Learning the formal language.** People from non-English-speaking countries that study this language at school usually know the basic and standard forms of it. And when they start to listen to natives, they feel confused because there are a lot of slang, idioms, and other unusual words that are not included in the school curriculum. So, to become a better listener, it is important to know how real people talk, not the ones in the schoolbooks.
6. **Personality type.** There are four main types of personality according to the way you absorb information – visual, auditory, read/write, and kinesthetic. If you are an auditor, it will be easier to listen to speakers, while if you are kinesthetic, you will have to make more of an effort. But effective listening is a skill that can be learned and improved with practice. As with any other skill, the more you use it, the better you will become at it.
7. **Difficult materials.** Some materials are more challenging to listen to than others. For example, if you are trying to listen to a lecture on quantum physics, it will be more complicated than listening to

a Disney cartoon. Generally, the more familiar you are with the material, the easier it will be to understand.

Conclusion

English listening skills are essential for learning and communicating in the English language. To improve your English listening skills, you can follow some effective ways, such as listening actively and attentively, listening to a variety of sources and materials, listening for the main idea and the details, listening repeatedly and regularly, listening and reading, and listening and writing. One of the ways to **improve british english listening skills** is to listen to podcasts, radio shows, or audiobooks that feature British speakers and accents. If you are preparing for an English level test, such as IELTS, you need to understand **how to improve english listening skills for IELTS** by practicing with sample tests, questions, and answers.

You can also use online platforms, such as OIDI, to enroll in one of the English language courses that they offer. To answer **how to improve my english listening**, you need to listen to English every day, even if it is for a short time. You should also challenge yourself with different types of listening materials and tasks, and seek feedback and guidance from others. By following these tips, you can improve your English listening skills and become a more confident and fluent listener.

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