



author presentations, questions, and discussions. Repeatedly presenting material in groups and to the audience not only learns to speak publicly well but also increases self-esteem; any educational quests can also be found online to learn more.

In conclusion, the WebQuest design is full of detail, including qualitative findings such as increased motivation, learning effectiveness, independent and group work skills, and ability to evaluate work. Successful goals can be achieved by smart choices. Choosing fresh topics through online resources creates lively classes. The project group raises the learner's psychology and self-education, as well as their new skills, which all require creativity and critical thinking.

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STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE LISTENING SKILLS IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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Abstract

The article focuses on the importance of developing listening strategies for students to enhance their listening skills and succeed in various listening tasks. The study examines metacognitive, cognitive, and compensatory strategies utilized by learners and teachers, emphasizing the role of planning, preparation, and reflection in the listening process. The article also discusses the significance of activating prior knowledge, visualization techniques, note-taking, and utilizing knowledge of other languages to aid in understanding and constructing meaning from audio messages. The implementation of these strategies at different stages of learning is essential for empowering students to take control of their learning and enhance their overall listening skills.

Key words: Comprehension, Metacognitive, Cognitive, Compensatory, Tasks, Instructions, Prior knowledge, Visualization

Developing listening strategies empowers students to personalize their approach to various listening tasks and take control of their own learning process. By mastering listening strategies, students cannot only tackle different types of listening activities but also actively shape and enhance their overall listening skills.

The application of listening strategies is essential throughout the entire learning journey, from beginner to advanced levels. Choosing the most effective strategy depends on the specific listening task and the type of listening involved.

Our research investigates the various strategies employed by both learners and teachers to achieve successful listening comprehension. We specifically examine the use of metacognitive, cognitive, and compensatory strategies by learners, as well as the techniques implemented by teachers to facilitate effective learning.

Metacognitive strategies, as defined by A. A. Zalevskaya, involve planning, organizing, and evaluating the learning process. Cognitive strategies refer to mental processes used to understand and make sense of information. Compensatory strategies help learners overcome knowledge gaps when engaging in language tasks, such as listening comprehension.

We will focus on metacognitive listening strategies that are applied at different stages of learning, including the crucial stages of independent preparation and self-monitoring.

Planning and preparation are crucial steps before engaging in a listening task. Listeners should first identify the purpose of the task and its level of importance. For



instance, knowing that a listening activity is part of an assessment can increase motivation and focus. Understanding the purpose helps learners select appropriate listening strategies from the very beginning.

Teachers can also play a significant role in preparing students for listening tasks. For example, writing the topic of the audio on the board activates students' prior knowledge and helps them make predictions about the content. Sharing a personal anecdote related to the topic further engages students and activates relevant background knowledge.

Additionally, careful reading of task instructions is essential before listening. Instructions often provide valuable clues about the main content and focus of the audio, which can guide students' listening approach.

Teachers play a key role in guiding students through listening tasks by explaining strategies for each step and highlighting key information within the instructions. Encouraging visualization of the audio content helps students anticipate what they will hear. The visual presentation of task instructions is also an important factor to consider when designing effective listening activities.

After reviewing the instructions with the teacher, students should re-read them independently, paying close attention to details. Teachers can further guide students by focusing their attention on specific elements within the instructions. Finally, students mentally prepare themselves for the listening task.

During and after listening, maintaining focus on both the overall message and specific details is crucial. Tasks that require step-by-step comprehension checks can help students develop this skill. Upon completing the task, students should compare their initial predictions with the actual information presented in the audio.

Cognitive strategies encompass methods for acquiring, organizing, and integrating new knowledge. These strategies are primarily based on the top-down model of speech perception, which emphasizes the role of background knowledge and expectations in understanding spoken language. We will now explore several cognitive strategies that can enhance listening comprehension.



Inferring Meaning from Context and Familiar Language:

Listeners can decipher the meaning of unfamiliar words by relying on familiar word parts, keywords, logical connectors, and contextual clues. Teachers can support this process by pre-teaching potentially challenging vocabulary and using activities that focus on specific lexical items. Paraphrasing activities after listening can further reinforce vocabulary acquisition and grammatical understanding.

Utilizing Prosodic Cues for Comprehension:

Paying attention to the speaker's volume, pitch, and intonation can provide valuable insights into their attitude, emotions, and communicative intent. Teachers can guide students to focus on these prosodic aspects of speech through activities such as imitating intonation patterns and identifying words with phrasal stress. By understanding how prosody contributes to meaning, listeners can gain a deeper understanding of the speaker's message.

When listening involves visual cues, such as facial expressions and gestures, listeners can utilize these non-verbal signals to infer the meaning of unfamiliar words and interpret the speaker's intentions. Paralinguistic information provides valuable clues to understanding the speaker's emotions and overall message.

Before engaging in listening activities, discussing how facial expressions and gestures convey meaning can enhance students' awareness of these non-verbal cues. Providing information about the length and structure of the listening text, especially for longer listening tasks, helps students manage their attention and focus on key information. Activities like note-taking or creating an outline can further support comprehension during extensive listening tasks.

Listeners actively draw upon their prior experiences and existing knowledge to make sense of the audio message and successfully complete listening tasks. Group discussions on the topic and sharing personal experiences can help activate relevant background knowledge. Focusing attention on specific linguistic elements related to the topic further enhances comprehension.



Visualization techniques, such as mentally picturing the events described in the audio, can be particularly effective for visual learners. Teachers can encourage this strategy by having students close their eyes and imagine the scenes as they listen.

Several strategies can aid in constructing a logical understanding of the audio message:

- * Summarizing the information in writing
- * Creating an outline of the main points
- * Noting down key words and phrases
- * Visually representing the information through diagrams or mind maps

Teachers can guide students in developing these note-taking and information-mapping skills by providing examples and various options for recording key information.

Compensatory strategies in listening refer to techniques listeners employ to overcome challenges and enhance comprehension when faced with difficulties. These strategies help bridge gaps in understanding and allow listeners to extract meaning even when they may not understand every word or aspect of the spoken language.

Predicting and guessing:

Using context clues: Listeners analyze the surrounding information, such as the topic, situation, and previous sentences, to predict what might come next.

Activating background knowledge: Drawing on existing knowledge and experiences related to the topic helps listeners fill in gaps and anticipate upcoming information.

Identifying word types and grammatical structures: Recognizing familiar patterns in sentence structure and word formation can aid in understanding the overall message.

Focusing attention:

Identifying key words and phrases: Paying close attention to words that seem particularly important or are repeated helps listeners grasp the main ideas.



Ignoring distractions: Minimizing external and internal distractions allows listeners to concentrate on the speaker and the message.

Using visual cues: Observing the speaker's facial expressions, gestures, and body language can provide valuable insights into their meaning and emotions.

Clarifying and verifying understanding:

Asking questions: Seeking clarification when unsure about something ensures accurate understanding and prevents misunderstandings.

Paraphrasing and summarizing: Restating the speaker's message in their own words helps listeners confirm their comprehension and identify any areas needing clarification.

Checking for comprehension: Listeners can periodically pause and assess their understanding, identifying any gaps or areas of confusion. In conclusion, developing and applying listening strategies is crucial for enhancing students' overall listening skills and comprehension abilities. Metacognitive, cognitive, and compensatory strategies play vital roles in guiding learners through the listening process, from planning and preparation to reflection and analysis. Teachers play a key role in providing guidance, support, and opportunities for practice in utilizing these strategies effectively. By empowering students to personalize their approach to various listening tasks and actively engage in the learning process, educators can foster a more effective and enriching learning experience for all learners, regardless of their proficiency level.

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