



LISTENING 101

ABSTRACT


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The art of hearing is an inborn ability while the art of listening is an acquired ability or skill. Listening Skill is one of the most important feature in communication. . Active listeners can instantly make meaning out of the verbal and non-verbal messages the speaker is sending through concentration and observation. Amongst all the language skills that human beings acquire, listening is the one they would use the earliest and the most throughout their lives. The sense of hearing functions even before birth where the unborn child in the fetus experiences loads of feelings, even the emotional upheavals and gratification through keen listening long before speaking, reading, or writing. It is known that newborns respond differently to different types of sounds.

KEYWORDS: *Hearing, Inborn Ability, Effective Speaker, Children, Living, Learning, Listening.*

The art of hearing is an inborn ability while the art of listening is an acquired ability or skill. To put it differently, Listening Skills allow one to comprehend what the other is up to. Listening Skill is one of the most important feature in communication. It takes a good listener to be an effective speaker. Listening well and listening enough plays a pivotal role in learning. Active listeners can instantly make meaning out of the verbal and non-verbal messages the speaker is sending through concentration and observation. Amongst all the language skills that human beings acquire, listening is the one they would use the earliest and the most throughout their lives. The sense of hearing functions even before birth where the unborn child in the fetus experiences loads of feelings, even the emotional upheavals and gratification through keen listening long before speaking, reading, or writing. It is known that newborns respond differently to different types of sounds.

As anyone who works in a hospital, nursery or infant care can attest, infants are usually calmed by sounds

that are similar to those heard inside the womb and distressed by the sound of other infants crying.

Even though listening is a frequent activity, it is seldom taught and poorly taught. There is however considerable feeling that the listening skills should “be developed in a general language arts context and, indeed, in the total ‘living- and - learning’ setting of the elementary school.”

Listening as a communication skill is recovering from the long period of neglect and is now receiving increasing attention in the elementary school program. In order to reach their full potential in rapid growth through language and communication, children/ young adults should have excellent listening skills because cognitive and language development will otherwise slump down.

Children who are not good at listening cannot get information into their minds accurately, so will experience difficulties with thinking. Listening skill is the basic fundamental unit of various sources. Practice in

listening is the first and foremost principle in learning. Successful listening skills are acquired over time and with lots of practice. It is understood that Listening has lot of values.

LISTENING SCOPE

Listening has been regarded as the most frequently used language skill in the classroom. It plays an even more important role in one's academic success than reading skill or academic aptitude.

By using appropriate listening skill with students in the classroom, the teacher builds the relationship of 'trust and care' essential to students' motivation to learn.

The students in turn overcome poor listening habits. Poor listening makes good communication almost impossible. Along with the acquisition of the linguistic skills, the learner is expected to master the four skills - listening, speaking, reading and writing, to acquire communicative competence.

Listening is one of the most important skills. Some people consider listening as a 'passive skill' or 'receptive skill'. But, listening is an active process in which the receiver assumes a responsibility.

Listening has also a role in speaking wherein people will be able to (give response) respond after they listen to the speaker. Listening is a skill that allows for comprehension of those sounds. It requires concentration and it is essential for success in school and at work. While hearing is an innate ability, listening is an art that can be developed through conscious effort. Listening skills are important for advancement in any career. Children need to focus learning this skill effectively.

A Turkish proverb which emphasizes the power of listening is, "If speaking is silver, then listening is gold." Listening is a magnetic and creative force. It is the highest compliment one human being can pay to another. Effective listening will benefit us as well as those around us.

Good Listening skills do the following:-

- ✳ It breaks up the barriers between people, communication and otherwise.
- ✳ It prevents time loss because of having to communicate a second or third time to get things straightened out.
- ✳ It helps know the organization.
- ✳ It helps in making better policies. ?

- ✳ It is important for the success of the open-door policy.
- ✳ It helps to spot sensitive areas before they become explosive.
- ✳ It forms a bond of respect.
- ✳ It increases productivity.
- ✳ It calms people down.
- ✳ It increases confidence.
- ✳ It paves way for accuracy.

To wrap up this discourse, it is prerogative to reiterate that **Listening Skill** itself is an Art, it can be acquired, inculcated, experienced, or imbibed, but it deems to be as the most wanted skill, even though it appears to be subtle when compared to the other three language skills.

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