

Language Learning through Listening

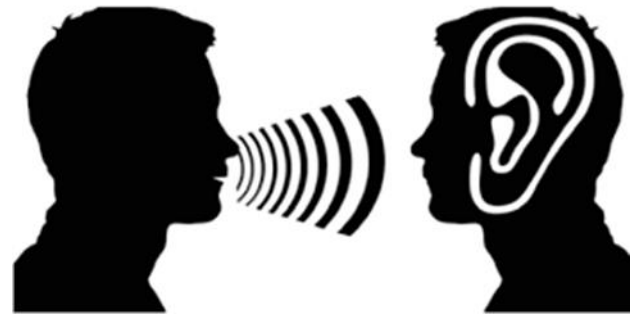
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What's Listening?

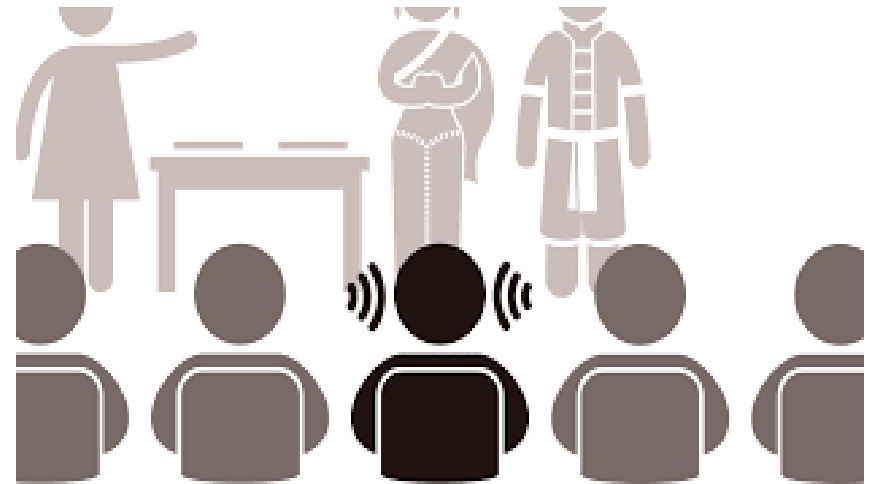
- Listening is receiving language through the ears: it involves identifying the sounds of speech and processing them into words and sentences.
- When we listen, we use our ears to receive individual sounds (letters, stress, rhythm and pauses) and we use our brain to convert these into messages that mean something to us.



Listening- a Macro Skill in Language Learning

- Listening has an important place in learning as it is one of the four major skills in language acquisition
- The other skills are essential to develop language proficiency, listening contributes primarily for language expertise.
(proficiency is ability, skill, competence while expertise is great skill or knowledge in a particular field or hobby)
- Listening awakens awareness of the language as it is a **receptive** skill that first develops in a human being
- Listening forms the concrete basis for the complete language proficiency

Can we learn a language through listening?



How Did We Learn Language as Children?

- Babies undergo a phase psychologists call a “Silent Period”
- As the name signifies, this is the time before babies learn to talk and produce the words in their language, sometimes called the Pre-production Stage of language development
- Is it a passive phase of silence?
 - But don't be misled, the “Silent Period” is not a passive phase of silence
 - It is a very busy time for babies to assimilate the phonetic features of the linguistic environment.



How Did We Learn Language as Children?

- Even if you don't hear them speak, babies are learning about the language: they are closely listening to the sounds around them
- They listen so closely that, in the future, they will soon be able to replicate the linguistic features of the people around them (It's no accident that babies in Texas speak with the same accent.)
- Listening is that effective and it's that powerful! It's a time-proven method that you would absolutely be crazy **not to take seriously**

References

- <https://www.skillsyouneed.com/ips/listening-skills.html>
- <https://www.fluentu.com/blog/learn-a-language-by-listening/#:~:text=Because%20the%20thing%20is%2C%20listening,to%20make%20time%20for%20listening.&text=Even%20if%20you%20don't,are%20learning%20about%20the%20language.>