
Listening and Video Strategies for the ESL Classroom

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Listening

Listening is a critical element in the competent language performance of adult second language learners, whether they are communicating at school, at work, or in the community.

Focused Listening

Switch on Listening

Everyone has a switch in their heads. When they turn it off out of frustration or lack of confidence, they will not understand anything, but when they leave it on, they may hear a few words that can give them clues to the message. When we encourage students to take risks, they develop listening skills.

Listening is a skill. Students learn strategies for listening and through this process are able to filter out information that is not important and center on information that is important.

Focused Listening

- Is at a “normal pace”
- Is always accompanied by a task

Steps for Teaching Listening

- Do a pre-listening activity
- Describe the task
- Have students do the task (play the recording more than once if necessary)
- Have students share with one another between listenings
- Do a post-listening activity

Encourage students to take risks and make educated guesses.

Using Video

- Freeze Frame
- Silent Viewing
- Prediction Techniques
- Listening without Viewing
- Back-to-Back
- Summary Strips
- Comprehension Checks
- Normal Viewing

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