

## THE ROLE OF TED TALKS AND PODCASTS IN ENHANCING STUDENTS LISTENING SKILLS

*To'xtanazarova Ruxshona Shuhratjon kizi*

*Student of Uzbekistan State World Languages at Faculty of English philology.*

*E-mail: ruxshonatoxtanazarova5@gmail.com*

*Dilfuza Khudaykul kizi Iskandarova*

*ESL teacher of Uzbekistan state words languages at Faculty of English philology*

*E-mail: d.iskandarova@uzswlu.uz*

**Abstract:** This article analyzes the role of TED Talks and podcasts in developing students' listening skills and highlights their educational applications. TED Talks is a platform that can present presentations from various experts around the world, and podcasts are audio programs that help to develop knowledge and listening skills on various topics. Today, listening comprehension is one of the most important competencies in learning a foreign language and speaking in public.

**Key words:** Listening skills, Ted Talks, Podcasts, Language learning, Listening comprehension, Pronunciation, Digital learning tools, Educational technology, Communication skills, Speaking fluency.

### Introduction

Nowadays, listening comprehension is one of the most important factors in learning English. Good listening skills help students to pronounce words fluently, understand the text they hear better, and communicate better. With the advancement of modern technology, TED Talks and podcasts have become useful tools for strengthening listening comprehension skills. Ted Talks feature expert talks on a variety of topics and introduce students to different accents and accents. And podcasts provide an opportunity to strengthen listening skills with natural conversations and audio material. This article analyzes the role of TED Talks and podcasts in developing students' listening skills and explores how they can be used in the educational environment.

In his book "Listening in Action" Michael Rost states that listening comprehension is the most necessary component of learning English. According to him, students understand new words in context by listening and adapt to natural speech. Also, he noted that it is necessary to use interactive materials for active learning of listening [1994].

As the founder of the Input Hypothesis, Stephen Krashen emphasizes the need to use understandable and interesting aids in learning a foreign language. According to him, it is necessary for students to listen to materials at a slightly higher level than their understanding level in order to naturally master the new language they are learning. TED Talks and podcasts are ideal for this [1985].

In his book Second Language Listening: Theory and Practice, John Flowerdew states that the use of multimedia significantly enhances listening comprehension methods. According to his research, learning visual information and audio together increases the level of listening

efficiency [2005].

According to Nancy Guilloteaux, who in her research on motivation and effectiveness in education emphasizes the use of interesting and authentic materials to encourage active student participation, resources such as TED Talks and podcasts are useful tools for developing listening comprehension skills [2008].

Willy Renandya "Teacher, the Tape is Too Fast!" article emphasizes the need for ESL students to hear natural speech intonation and pacing. His research shows that resources such as podcasts and TED Talks can help students learn a new foreign language to understand different pronunciation styles and accents[2011].

Listening comprehension is one of the most important skills in learning English, but it is a challenge for many students. This is because the information needs to be processed again in real time during listening comprehension. Because of this, ESL (English as a Second Language) students should use useful ways to strengthen their listening comprehension skills. This section discusses ways to strengthen listening comprehension skills using TED Talks and podcasts, their benefits, and how they can be used in the classroom. With these approaches, students can significantly improve their listening comprehension.

Develop listening comprehension skills through TED Talks

Today, TED Talks is popular as a platform that presents interesting talks by experts from all over the world. These lectures cover a variety of topics and can be a great resource for ESL learners. The main benefits of using TED Talks are: Better understanding of pronunciation and accents – By listening to different speakers, students learn real-life pronunciation. Learning new words and phrases in context - It is more effective to learn new words by listening to them during a real conversation than by memorizing them from a textbook. Analyzing the text and giving an opinion - Analyzing, discussing and expressing one's opinion on the speech heard is one of the important factors in language learning. To make this method more effective, you can use a game called "TED Summary Challenge". In this game, students listen to short TED Talks videos, record key points, and discuss and summarize in groups. It not only develops listening comprehension, but also improves the ability to express one's thoughts clearly and fluently.

Using podcasts

Podcasts are also a very useful tool for ESL learners. Because through them, students hear real-life conversations and adapt to natural speech. Podcasts are useful in the following ways: Learn authentic communication styles – Podcasts cover formal and informal conversations, different dialects, and pronunciation styles. Improve listening skills – Students develop fast and accurate comprehension skills by regularly listening to podcasts. Learning about new topics – Some podcasts focus on scientific, historical, or cultural topics that help students expand their vocabulary. To make this method more interesting, you can use the game "Guess the Topic". In this game, the teacher listens to an excerpt from a short podcast, and the students try to identify the topic. The group with the correct answer gets a point. This game encourages attentive listening and improves contextual understanding.

Strategic use of subtitles

Proper use of subtitles can also help develop listening comprehension skills. The following steps are recommended for students to use subtitles: First listen with native language subtitles – First to understand the general content. Then listen with English subtitles - To remember new words

and pronunciations. Listening without subtitles at the end – To develop a natural understanding of real speech. The Subtitle Challenge game can be used to gamify this method.

Students listen to a TED Talk or podcast in three stages: first with subtitles in their native language, then with English subtitles, and finally without subtitles. Each step is followed by a discussion and students answer questions about the content of the video.

Formation of real-life dialogues

Learning English should not be limited to listening. It is important that students learn to apply what they have heard in real life. The following methods are recommended for this: Topic Discussions – Debate on a topic in a Podcast or TED Talks. Role-playing – Students can practice real-life conversations by acting out different roles. Question and answer exercises - Students ask each other questions and explain their thoughts in English. The Real Talk Challenge game can be used to make this method interactive. In this game, students divide into groups and discuss a specific TED Talk or podcast. The group with the best argument will be the winner.

### **Conclusion**

Listening comprehension is one of the main skills in learning a foreign language, and it is important to use effective and interesting methods to develop it. Research shows that TED Talks and podcasts can greatly improve listening skills for ESL students. These resources enable you to understand natural speech, adapt to different pronunciations and accents, and learn words and phrases in real-life contexts. The approaches discussed in the article—active listening techniques, using subtitles, real-life conversations, using podcasts, and strategic listening techniques—were all found to be effective methods for improving ESL students' listening comprehension skills.

Applying these methods through games and interactive activities not only develops listening skills, but also makes students interested in language learning. Also, using subtitles step-by-step, participating in real-life conversations, and mastering different styles will make the language learning process easier for ESL learners. Thus, listening comprehension can be strengthened by using TED Talks and podcasts effectively. It serves not only to freely communicate in a foreign language, but also to increase the level of general language knowledge. More extensive use of TED Talks and podcasts in ESL education is recommended in the future. It is desirable for teachers to use these resources to organize more interactive lessons, to organize discussions to strengthen students' ability to explain and understand their own thoughts. Also, the listening comprehension process can be made more effective with the help of new technologies and innovative educational tools. Thus, effective listening comprehension methods and the use of modern technologies facilitate the process of learning a foreign language and make it more effective and interesting for students.

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