

In the name of God

**How to Improve
Listening Comprehension**

SHAHLA HEIDARZADE

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Introduction

Comprehension that is one of the most difficult tasks for the language learner is probably the most neglected skill in second language teaching. This neglect stems from the objectives of language teaching where the students are not likely to be exposed to native speaker but the neglect is probably due to our ignorance about the nature of the process of listening comprehension.

We cannot have a communication unless what is being said is comprehend by another person. One of the most difficult problems for learners or travelers in strange countries is that they cannot understand what is being said to them; although they can express themselves by gestures, writing or by pointing.

Comprehension of spoken language is very important and listening comprehension has its special problems which arise from fleeting, immaterial nature of spoken utterances and the complicated ways we process what we hear.

Both language teachers and students should know the importance of listening comprehension skills. But their attention is on the ultimate goal, speaking without consideration of this important fact that speaking passes through listening and a good speaker first of all should be a good listener. In addition, the teachers can correct students' errors only if they hear them say something or if they read what they have written.

The immediate goals for students are to understand the teacher well and to take part in the class and be able to keep their confidence and motivation. Ultimate goals are

to understand classmates; speeches during the class and be able to practice with the tapes in the language laboratory or at home.

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