

Listening Booster

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Written and Compiled by

Mohammad Sadegh Bagheri (PhD)

Shirin Soltani & Sedigheh Khademi

سرشناسه: باقری، محمد صادق، ۱۳۴۲ -

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عنوان و نام پدیدآور: Listening booster/written and compiled by

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مشخصات نشر: شیراز: ایده درخشان، ۱۳۹۰=۲۰۱۱م.

مشخصات ظاهری: ۶۹۳ص.

شابک: ۱۰۵۰۰۰ ریال: 978-600-92138-4-9

وضعیت فهرست‌نویسی: قیفا

یادداشت: انگلیسی.

آوانویسی عنوان: لیسنینگ بوستر.

موضوع: زبان انگلیسی -- راهنمای آموزشی -- خارجی‌ان

موضوع: گوش دادن

شناسه افزوده: سلطانی، شیرین، ۱۳۵۹ -

شناسه افزوده: Soltani, Shirin

شناسه افزوده: خادمی، صدیقه، ۱۳۶۹ -

شناسه افزوده: Khademi, Sedigheh

ردمبندی کنگره: ۱۳۸۹ ج۲ ب۱۷۷ پب

ردمبندی دیویی: ۳۲۸/۲۴

شماره کتابشناسی ملی: ۲۲۵۳۳۲۷

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نویسنده: محمد صادق باقری، شیرین سلطانی، صدیقه خادمی

لیتوگرافی: شیراز: اسکندر ۷۷۸۱ ۶۲۸-۷۱۱۰

طرح جلد: لاله مصطفوی

صفحه‌آرایی: شیراز: اسکندر (نیلوفر میرزا)

ناشر: ایده درخشان

نوبت چاپ: اول ۱۳۹۰

تیراژ: ۳۰۰۰ نسخه

قیمت: ۱۰۵۰۰۰ ریال

شابک: ۹۷۸-۶۰۰-۹۲۱۳۸-۴-۹

Introduction

This brief introduction makes an attempt to familiarize the teachers and students with what this book can be used for. As for the teachers, it tries to let them realize how creative they can be in using the book for teaching or evaluation purposes. Regarding students, this introduction gives them a thorough understanding of the book and helps them plan how to take the best advantage of this book. Teachers may use the audio files for levels 1-6 (elementary to advanced) merely as a listening practice in class or at home. The listening materials can be supplemented with different kinds of tests, namely, multiple-choice, cloze, fill-in-the blanks, vocabulary, etc. Tests can not only evaluate learning (i.e., shallow/deep) but also help grasp materials and deepen learning through practice. If the students have plans to learn English on their own, this book is a good choice but they have to keep in mind that first they have to learn how to use this book. Thus, a rough and ready plan is offered and highly recommended as how to use this book most efficiently. The first stage in using the book is listening and just listening. There are lots of reasons why your book should be closed at first. If you first listen carefully to the audio files, you improve your accent, intonation, pronunciation and fluency in a short period of time. After listening to a file several times, you can open the book and browse your eyes over the text as you are listening so that you have a better grasp of the text. Meanwhile, try to guess the meaning from the context so that you develop and improve some innate talents. If you listen to the text you'll improve your tolerance of ambiguity and enhance your talent to guess the unknown words and expressions from context and get an overall understanding.

The next stage can be studying the passage without listening. In this stage, you will underline the key words and expressions, pay attention to spelling, key words and grammatical structures and notice how the text has been organized cohesively and coherently.

Studying a passage is different from reading a passage. When you read, you read for pleasure; that's why, you read at your utmost speed paying attention to the general meaning. As for studying, you want to digest the text that's why you read more analytically, paying

attention to the nuances of the language.

If you have read and studied the passage and you think you have a very good understanding of the passage now it is time to enjoy listening to the text without looking at the passage. You can listen to the text while you are walking, riding, cycling or driving. Your iPod, cell-phone or CD player or different means of technology are all at your disposal to help you learn. This stage is the review part so that you keep your learning fresh and you change your knowledge from passive to active. Remember your pace of using the book, listening to files, reading and reviewing might be of great significance.

Why listening?

Regarding natural order of learning a language, listening comes first. Listening can be considered as the base of all other skills. Listening to lots of materials prepares you and paves the way for you to improve your speaking, reading and writing skills.

Actually, listening is a basic skill which enhances fluency. It is highly suggested that after you have covered the listening materials of this series, constant review or exposure is necessary. After you feel sure you have gained mastery over the listening materials provided, you have to continue listening to some other materials. ESL.POD is a good source through which you can keep your listening updated. Nowadays, there are lots of short stories with CDs available on the market. It's good practice to read the short stories and listen to the CD/tape provided. Reading newspapers and magazines can help you not forget the materials learned through listening. Seeking speaking opportunities , hunting tourists , attending conversation and chat classes , traveling to English speaking countries , and making friends to chat in English can help you improve your English.

This book is a raw material out of which you can get as much as you attempt and desire.

Mohammad S. Bagheri (PhD)

Level 1

(Contents)

1. First Snow Fall
2. Jessica's First Day of School
3. My Flower Garden
4. Going Camping
5. My House
6. My First Pet
7. Jennifer the Firefighter
8. Mark's Big Game
9. The Easter Egg Hunt
10. Joe's First Car
11. Summer Vacation
12. Cleaning Up Leaves
13. Susan's Wedding Day
14. Remembrance Day
15. Halloween Night
16. Christmas Eve
17. Thanksgiving
18. Learning How to Drive
19. Housework
20. Working Outside
21. Daily Schedule
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24. Weather
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26. School
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28. International Students
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56. Music (1)
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78. Emotions
79. My First Job
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91. The Museum
92. The Police
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95. A Wedding
96. My Dad
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99. Rhyming Words
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105. When I Grow Up
106. Favorite Colours
107. Making Friends

108. Getting Old
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128. Most common first Names
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133. Sect
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139. Meals
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141. Clothing
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