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LISTENING SKILLS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE: A STUDY

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Abstract:

There are four skills of communication in any language i.e. Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Listening is one of the most important soft skills. This skill also shows the maturity and the understanding of the listener. There are various types of Listening skills. Active Listening, Appreciative Listening, Casual Listening, Comprehensive Listening, Critical Listening, Dialogic Listening, Discriminative Listening, Empathetic Listening, etc.

Keywords: *Chronological, Irrespective, Read between the lines, Sub-Conscious, Comprehension, Cues, Rational, Empathetic, Approach, etc.*

There are four skills of communication in any language i.e. Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Listening is one of the most important soft skills. This skill also shows the maturity and understanding of the listener. It is very important skill in the process of communication. Without active listening skills, you won't be able to receive and interpret the message. This skill enables the people to understand the messages that others convey to them in spoken language. So, it has been given the first chronological order of communication skills.

If you are a good listener, you will influence the others. You will avoid conflict and misunderstandings. Some important Listening skills are as follows:

- 1) Pay attention when others speak.
- 2) Show that you are listening.
- 3) Provide feedback.
- 3) Defer Judgement.
- 4) Respond appropriately.

Listening is the act of hearing attentively. However, listening is not simply hearing. It is the absorption of the meanings of words and sentences by the brain. Listening enables the understanding of facts and ideas. Listening is the 1st of the 4 language skills. There is a difference between simply listening and listening with focused attention irrespective of distractions. English listening skills require concentration which is the focusing of your thoughts upon one particular area, which in this case would be English.

Good Listening skills also include using body language which empowers the speaker. Making eye contact with the speaker is important when a large auditorium or in a classroom. It shows that you are responding to what the speaker is saying and not down or gazing at some daydream. A person who incorporates listening with concentration is actively listening to



details at any time. In our daily lives, we are faced with different situations which require different types of listening. We listen in a different way in order to obtain information, improve a relationship. There are various types of Listening skills:

1) Active Listening:- It is a type of Listening wherein the listener is attentive towards what the speaker is saying. It helps in understanding the emotions, which the words are expressing. Active listening is more than just listening to what is being said. It is also listening to what is unspoken. Sometimes a speaker may convey his/her thoughts in an indirect manner as he/she may not be comfortable in taking a direct approach. It is here that Active Listening provides us with the cues to 'read between the lines'.

2) Appreciative Listening:- It is a type of Listening where one accepts and appreciates the other person through what they say. It seeks to praise. Attentively, listening to something for pleasure, such as music is also a type of Appreciative Listening. The response of the listener defines appreciative listening, not the message. Appreciative Listening also affects one's ability to appreciate something valuable in an apt manner.

3) Casual Listening:- The term says it all. Listening without showing much attention. However, actual attention may vary a lot from person to person. Its importance lies in the fact that even though we are not listening carefully, our subconscious is alert to it.

4) Comprehensive Listening:- In this type of listening to the listener's primary concern is to understand the message which is being conveyed by the speaker. Listener assigns a meaning to that message. Comprehensive Listening is also known as Content Listening, Informative Listening and Full Listening.

5) Critical Listening:- Critical Listening is listening performed to evaluate, judge, form opinion about what is being said. The judgement includes assessing strengths and weaknesses, agreement and approval. It requires critical thinking skill as well. A detailed logical analysis goes with critical listening. The key is to try to understand the person before evaluating. It is used to distinguish between real compliments and flattery.

6) Dialogic Listening:- It is a type of listening wherein a listener hears a conversation and engages in an interchange of ideas and information in order to learn more about the person and how they think. Dialogic Listening is sometimes known as Relational Listening. It can be a shared activity where people regard each other's point of view without interrupting or engaging in an argument.

7) Discriminative Listening:- It is a type of listening where the listener discriminates between different sound and sights. Here the listener is trying to hear something specific. From an early age, we learn to discriminate between sounds within our own language and later are unable to discriminate between the sounds of other languages. This is one reason why a person from one country finds it difficult to speak another language perfectly.

8) Empathetic Listening:- It is a type of listening where the listener understands the speakers concern or loss with a rational approach. Listening shows one's level of manners or etiquettes.



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