

# Transacting Audio Resources in the English Classroom



IT for Change

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***Share your earliest memories of learning your mother tongue. What do you think helped you learn?***

# Understanding Language Acquisition



Children acquire their mother tongue through constant exposure, imitation, and meaningful interaction. They learn by listening, speaking, making mistakes, and receiving gentle corrections.

***Are we able to replicate this natural language acquisition process in our English classrooms?***



***What proportion of your classroom sessions is conducted in English?***

***Can you give some examples?***



***What does 'Listening' mean?***

# What does 'Listening' mean?



- Listening is a fundamental skill in language acquisition, often described as the foundation upon which other language skills are built. It is an active process of receiving, understanding, and responding to spoken messages
- The listening process consists of three main stages:
  - Hearing
  - Interpreting or sense-making
  - Understanding
- Effective listening goes beyond simply hearing words. For language learners, particularly those in English language classrooms, developing strong listening skills is crucial for overall language proficiency.

# Types of 'Listening'



- **Active listening:** Fully concentrating on the speaker, understanding the message, and responding appropriately
- **Passive listening:** Hearing the words without actively trying to comprehend the meaning or engage with the speaker
- **Critical listening:** Analyzing and evaluating the speaker's message to assess its validity, relevance, and implications
- **Empathetic listening:** Striving to understand the speaker's feelings, needs, and perspectives to establish a deeper connection



*Do you think you are a good listener?*

*Which type of listening do you think is most important for language learning?*



# Benefits of effective listening in the classroom



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- Enhances student engagement and participation
- Promotes better comprehension and retention of information
- Fosters a positive learning environment and stronger student-teacher relationships
- Develops critical thinking and problem-solving skills



***What challenges do you think our students face in terms of 'listening'?***

***How can we develop our students' listening skills?***



Listening instruction often takes a backseat to other language skills like speaking, reading, and writing.

By focusing on listening strategies and providing structured listening activities, teachers can help students build confidence, improve comprehension, and ultimately enhance their overall language skills.

Thus, it becomes essential to expose children to a variety of high quality and contextualised audio-based resources



***It's time for a story!***  
***Are you ready to listen along?***



*What comes to your mind when you look at these pictures?*



***What are your thoughts on the activities that we used today along with the story?***

# Using Audio Stories in the English Classroom



- Audio stories are powerful tools for developing listening skills in the English language classroom. They offer a rich, contextualized source of language input that can engage learners and support their comprehension skills.
- As students listen, they create mental images of the characters and settings, which can enhance their engagement and retention of the language.
- Audio stories can be tailored to different proficiency levels, from simple, short narratives for beginners to more complex, longer stories for advanced learners.
- Total Physical Response (TPR) activities can be used to build students focus and listening skills initially.
- To effectively implement audio stories in the classroom, teachers can use a three-stage approach:
  - pre-listening,
  - during-listening, and
  - post-listening activities.





**TPR (Total Physical Response) Activities**

**Pre-Listening Activities**

***Building Listening Skills  
using Audio Stories***

**During-listening Activities**

**Post-listening Activities**

# Total Physical response Activities



- Total Physical Response, or TPR, is a language teaching method that combines physical movements with language learning
- In the context of listening to audio stories, TPR activities can significantly enhance comprehension and engagement
- This method is based on the idea that learning is more effective when it involves physical activity, making it particularly useful for young learners
- Examples: *Salma Says*, *Action Story*

## Pre-listening Activities



- Pre-listening activities can be helpful in preparing students for successful comprehension of audio stories.
- These activities serve to activate prior knowledge, introduce key vocabulary, and set a purpose for listening.
- By engaging in pre-listening tasks, students are better equipped to understand and engage with the audio content, reducing anxiety and increasing confidence in their listening abilities.

## During-listening Activities



- During-listening activities are designed to keep students actively engaged while they listen to an audio story.
- These activities can help maintain focus, guide comprehension, and encourage active processing of the information being presented.
- By providing specific tasks to complete while listening, teachers can transform passive listening into an interactive and productive learning experience.

# Post-listening Activities



- Post-listening activities are essential for consolidating understanding, encouraging reflection, and extending learning beyond the audio story.
- These activities can provide opportunities for students to demonstrate comprehension, analyze the content more deeply, and apply the language they've encountered in creative ways.
- Effective post-listening tasks can transform the passive act of listening into an active, productive learning experience.