

## THE ROLE OF VOCABULARY KNOWLEDGE IN LISTENING PROFICIENCY

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**Abstract:** *This article analyzes the importance of vocabulary knowledge in the development of listening comprehension skills. Listening is an important component of communicative competence in the process of language learning. However, if the student's vocabulary is not sufficient to achieve listening comprehension, this skill will develop poorly. The article discusses the types of vocabulary knowledge, their impact on listening comprehension, as well as methods for mastering vocabulary in context. It also covers effective strategies for working with students of different ages and levels. This article may be useful for teachers who are looking for ways to harmoniously develop listening comprehension and vocabulary in language teaching practice.*

**Keywords:** *listening comprehension, vocabulary, language learning, listening skills, vocabulary acquisition in context, audio materials, vocabulary development, primary and secondary education, foreign language teaching*

The process of learning a foreign language includes several basic language skills - listening, speaking, reading and writing. Among them, listening comprehension occupies a special place as a natural and initial stage of language acquisition. Because learning any language begins first with listening and understanding. Children learn their native language by listening first and then speaking. From this point of view, listening comprehension also serves as an important foundation in learning a foreign language. Listening comprehension allows a language learner not only to hear and understand words, but also to understand them in context, to correctly interpret the tone, pronunciation and content of a sentence. This helps to perceive language as a living means of communication and to use it actively. Through listening, the learner expands his vocabulary, learns

grammatical structures in a natural context, and adapts to the pace of speech. Modern language teaching methods pay special attention to the development of listening comprehension skills. Audio materials, conversations, dialogues, and exercises based on real-life situations encourage students to listen actively. Such approaches significantly improve not only listening, but also general language competence. Vocabulary knowledge plays an important role in the process of language learning. Any communication, exchange of ideas, or understanding of information is carried out through words. Therefore, the wider the student's vocabulary, the more freely and effectively he can communicate through language. Vocabulary knowledge is not only about memorizing words, but also includes their meaning, use in context, grammatical forms, and functions in speech.

Vocabulary knowledge has an active and passive nature. Active vocabulary is the words that are actively used by the learner in oral or written speech. Passive vocabulary is the words that are familiar to the learner, but are not actively used in everyday communication. These words are understood when heard or read, but are difficult to use independently.

Vocabulary knowledge can be receptive and productive. Receptive vocabulary is a set of words that are received through listening and reading, while productive vocabulary is words that are expressed through writing and speaking. These two skills are closely related, and one reinforces the other. Also, thematic and contextual dictionaries play an important role in language learning. Thematic vocabulary is related to specific topics, for example, covering areas such as school, nature, and nutrition. Contextual vocabulary includes words that are used in a way that is appropriate to the context or situation. It is precisely contextual vocabulary that is necessary to use language in natural and real-life situations. Developing students' vocabulary in listening comprehension lessons is an integral part of the language learning process. Because the correct understanding of words and phrases heard during the listening process directly depends on the student's vocabulary knowledge. Therefore, getting acquainted with new words during the lesson, understanding them in context, and applying them to active speech are important methodological tasks. At the stage of preparation for listening, the teacher selects new or difficult words that may be encountered in the text and discusses them with the students. These words are explained through pronunciation, meaning, forms, and examples. Also, by using

words in context, students better understand their semantic load. At the post-listening stage, exercises are performed such as recognizing these words by hearing them, isolating them from a sentence, and finding synonyms or antonyms. Students try to use the words they heard in a sentence, which serves to transfer the vocabulary to active speech. In this way, words do not just remain heard, but become knowledge that is assimilated and applied.

A multimodal approach to working on vocabulary based on audio or video materials is effective. For example, words become more understandable through visual images, gestures, tone of voice, and contextual cues. This is especially useful for younger or elementary school students. Role-playing games, conversations, questions, and creative tasks based on listening materials develop not only students' listening comprehension skills, but also their ability to actively use vocabulary. In this way, the words learned are reinforced in a natural and real-life context. Listening is one of the important and basic skills in learning a foreign language. Through this skill, the student perceives the language in a natural state, through real speech. The effectiveness of listening comprehension is directly related to the student's vocabulary. Because not knowing the words in a text or sentence can hinder understanding its general meaning. A reader with good vocabulary knowledge can determine the approximate meaning of unfamiliar words in the text based on the context, even if they appear in the text. This facilitates listening comprehension, and also creates the basis for the development of important language skills such as generalizing thoughts, isolating the main idea, and processing the information heard. The close connection between vocabulary knowledge and not only knowing the main meaning of a word, but also understanding its pronunciation, use in different contexts, grammatical forms, and functions in speech deepens listening skills. As soon as the reader hears the pronunciation of a word, he activates the semantic information associated with it and understands the general meaning of the text. Also, knowledge of collocations, expressions and phraseological units is an important factor in effective listening. Because in natural speech, many words are used in combinations, figuratively or contextually. A student who has mastered such situations correctly understands the heard speech and can adequately perceive information. Therefore, systematic and conscious work on vocabulary is required in listening lessons. Based on each new listening material, students get acquainted with

new words, hear their pronunciation, see their use in context, and then perform exercises related to them. This process takes them from passive knowledge of words to the level of active use.

**In conclusion**, vocabulary knowledge plays a key role in the formation and development of listening skills. A student with a wide and deep vocabulary understands the heard text faster, more accurately and more fully. Therefore, combining listening comprehension and vocabulary acquisition in the language learning process yields effective results.

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