

INTERACTIVE TECHNIQUES IN TEACHING LISTENING TO B2 LEVELS

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Annotation: Listening is a foundational skill in language acquisition and vital for successful communication. At the B2 (Upper-Intermediate) level of the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages), learners are expected to understand extended speech and follow complex arguments. This article explores interactive techniques that can enhance listening comprehension and engagement among B2 learners, focusing on practical classroom activities and digital tools that encourage active participation.

Key words: interactive techniques, teaching, listening, B2 levels, language acquisition, passive listening exercises, active participation, comprehension, critical thinking skills, pre-listening activities.

Listening is not a passive activity; it involves decoding, interpreting, and reacting to auditory input. B2 level learners typically have a solid grasp of vocabulary and grammar, but they still face challenges with native-speaker speed, idiomatic expressions, and understanding implied meanings. Interactive teaching methods can bridge this gap by fostering active listening, critical thinking, and collaborative learning.

Effective listening starts before the audio plays. Pre-listening tasks activate prior knowledge and set context.

Prediction Tasks: Show a title or image and ask students to predict the content. **Vocabulary Bingo:** Provide a list of keywords from the audio and let students mark them as they hear them. **Brainstorming:** In pairs, students list ideas related to the topic, which helps them anticipate themes and vocabulary.

Jigsaw Listening: Divide the class into groups, each listening to a different segment of the audio. Then, they share information to complete a task. **Information Gap Activities:** Students fill in missing details by listening and then collaborate to piece together the full content. **Interactive Transcripts:** Use tools like TED-Ed or YouTube with captions. Students click on parts of the transcript to repeat, translate, or analyze. [1].

Post-listening reinforces comprehension and allows learners to reflect and respond. **Debate or Discussion:** After listening to an audio clip (e.g., a podcast or news report), students discuss opinions or consequences. **Role-play:** Based on a conversation or scenario from the audio, students act out roles, encouraging deeper understanding. **Summarizing and Paraphrasing:** Learners summarize the audio content orally or in writing, developing both listening and speaking/writing skills. Technology makes listening interactive and personalized.[5].

Podcasts with Interactive Quizzes: Use apps like Listenwise, LyricsTraining, or ESL Lab. **Breakout Rooms in Video Calls:** During online lessons, divide students into small groups to complete listening tasks collaboratively. **Kahoot & Quizlet Live:** Turn comprehension questions into engaging games to increase motivation and retention.

Introducing real-world materials improves listening skills and cultural competence.

News Reports & Interviews: Use current events to build interest and teach real-life language use. TV Series and Movies: Show clips with subtitles first, then without, followed by discussions or comprehension questions. Song Lyrics: Analyze songs for idioms, rhythm, and pronunciation. It's fun and linguistically rich.

Utilizing technology can significantly enhance the interactive nature of listening activities. Online platforms, interactive apps, and multimedia tools provide learners with the opportunity to engage with authentic materials in an interactive and self-paced manner. These resources can offer features such as interactive transcripts, comprehension quizzes, or audio recording options, which facilitate learner autonomy and individualized learning experiences. [3]

Many educational websites and blogs dedicated to language teaching and learning offer articles, guides, and resources on interactive techniques for teaching listening skills. These sources often provide practical tips, activity ideas, and real-life examples of how to incorporate interactive techniques into B2 level listening instruction. They may also provide insights from experienced educators or language experts.

Online communities and forums for language teachers or ESL/EFL instructors can be valuable sources of information. These communities often have discussions, threads, or resources related to interactive techniques in teaching listening. Educators from around the world share their experiences, strategies, and recommended activities for engaging B2 level learners in listening tasks.

Some organizations or institutions offer professional development materials, workshops, or courses for language teachers. These resources may cover topics such as teaching listening skills and interactive techniques for B2 level learners. They may include downloadable guides, lesson plans, or multimedia resources that can be used to enhance listening instruction. [4]

Language learning platforms, particularly those focused on self-study or online courses, often provide resources and materials for improving listening skills. These platforms may offer interactive exercises, listening practice modules, or curated listening materials specifically designed for B2 level learners. They may also incorporate technology-assisted approaches, such as interactive quizzes, speech recognition, or personalized feedback.

When conducting your search, it's important to evaluate the credibility and relevance of the sources you come across. Look for reputable publishers, academic institutions, or recognized experts in the field of language teaching and learning. Additionally, consider the context and specific needs of your learners to determine which interactive techniques are most suitable for your B2 level teaching. [2]

Conclusion

Interactive techniques make listening practice more dynamic and effective, especially at the B2 level where learners are ready for more complex input. Incorporating pre-, while-, and post-listening strategies, supported by technology and authentic materials, not only improves listening comprehension but also fosters learner autonomy and confidence in real-world communication.

By integrating pre-listening activities, authentic materials, interactive tasks, pair/group activities, and technology-assisted approaches, educators can create dynamic and engaging listening experiences. These techniques not only enhance comprehension but also promote

critical thinking, communication, and collaboration skills. By utilizing interactive techniques, language instructors can effectively facilitate the development of listening skills among B2 level learners and support their overall language proficiency.

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