IMPROVING THE LISTENING SKILLS OF STUDENTS

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Listening is the most critical communication skill wherein students engage their 65% to 90% of their time.

As Julian Treasure, author and good public speaker puts it, “Ears are made not for hearing but for listening. Listening is an active skill, whereas hearing is passive. Listening is something that we have to work at. It’s a relationship with sound. And yet, it’s a skill that none of us are taught.” Equally, Proverbs 1:5 states “Let the wise hear and increase in learning and the one who understands obtain guidance.”

Students must acquire the correct way of listening as they should know the correct way of learning other language macro skills like reading, speaking and writing. Vicencio, as cited by Villafuerte (2007), suggested some strategies to test the listening skills of students. Provide instructions that will sustain effective communication. Motivate student to listen thus the development of their communicative and cognitive skills takes place. In addition, without listening skill no communication can be achieved (Cross, 1998). Take note if there is a difference in the comprehensive of the learner. Give instructions to students emphasizing that they don’t need to waste the instruction. Assess the listening skills of the learners through the use of different strategies, through this the students may assess their listening skills. Remember that listening is hearing, understanding, remembering and interpreting, now teaching a language means not only teaching the fundamentals of it but also abilities and strategies that help the learners improve their performance on it, so that they can really communicate.
Summing it up, if there is one communication skill that you need to master, then it is listening.

References:

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