

HOW TO TEACH ENGLISH TO GEN Z STUDENTS



Editor: Kartika Marta Budiana



How To Teach English to Gen Z Students

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CHAPTER S.

Boosting Gen Z Students' Listening Skills with Spotify

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A. Concerning Issues on Gen Z Students' Listening Skills

Many people mistakenly believe that formal education, such as attending school or an English language development course, is the only method to enhance listening skills. However, there are other ways to do so, particularly in the modern era of technology advancing quickly. Because listening is the foundation for both communication and information reception, it is important to improve listening skills which are crucial for effective communication in both individual and group settings, as noted by Purdy (1997).

When we talk about technology, we cannot help but talk about Gen Z, a generation that has grown up with computers and the internet at their fingertips. Born in the smartphone era, they have a strong attachment to technology. This generation, more than any other, has easy access to information via the internet, particularly when it comes to using a variety of media applications that pique their interest in everything, including the English language.

These days, there are a lot of applications that combine learning with engaging and innovative services to help develop skills. It is also common to come across apps that serve as learning tools but can also be used to help build skills; one example of this is Spotify, a streaming service provider app with millions of songs available. As Spotify is currently the most popular music streaming app, Gen Z can

use it as a tool to improve their listening comprehension. Although there is music on Spotify from all around the world, English music is the most frequently discovered genre.

Students generally agree that Spotify helps with pronunciation, partly because it has many features that facilitate learning (Ilyas & Kaniadewi, 2023). They also contend that listening to music and paying attention to the lyrics can help pronunciation and increase students' interest in listening to English songs. In her research, Apriyanti (2024) also found that Spotify, a music streaming service, may be used as a vocabulary learning tool and has been shown to help students improve a variety of vocabulary abilities. Purcell (1992) asserts that English songs, as opposed to boring dialogue discussions, help listeners minimize feelings of boredom by providing rhythms and melodies that facilitate the retention of new words and phrases.

B. Spotify Application for Listening Skills Improvement Spotify Application in ELT Context

Spotify is widely recognized as a music streaming service popular right now in various areas. According to Fleischer (2021), Spotify is both the name of the firm and the name of a streaming music service. Sletten (2021) states that Spotify is a Swedish corporation that made its formal debut in 2008. The company's mission is to operate as "Intelligent, Assisting, Genuine, Enthusiastic, and Light-hearted," and its ambition is to serve as a platform that allows professional creators to freely express themselves via art. Spotify has amassed a devoted following by offering podcasts covering intriguing subjects and music selections from a variety of international singers.

The Spotify app contains a variety of content, including podcasts. A novel kind of audio media, podcasts are described by Clifton et al. (2020) as conversations that can be informal or formal, or they can be fiction or non-fiction presented in several ways spanning

multiple genres. Not only are podcasts available in audio format on the Spotify app, but Spotify now offers podcast media in audiovisual format for further convenience and user experience. Podcast fans can easily find a wide variety of subjects or topics they want on Spotify, where podcasts are available to all audiences at no cost.

Spotify was billed as a service that provided instant access to a large selection of music for free during its first year of operation (Eriksson, et al., 2019). Affective and motion-related sensations are greatly influenced by music. When someone listens to music, they frequently have emotional reactions that can lead them to feel as though they are a part of the song. Spotify is a leading player in the worldwide music market because its core product is music (MarketLine, 2020). Spotify presents music with beautiful clips from music videos together with the words of the song currently playing. Due to its user-friendly interface and wide selection of global music genres, Spotify Music can draw in fans.

According to the findings of a study conducted by Afriyuninda & Oktaviani (2021) involving 100 students, the use of English songs as a medium for listening ability development yielded favorable outcomes. Setyobudi & Jannah (2022) stated the average score of the students they tested increased at the post-test stage from the previous score, demonstrating in their research that using Spotify music might improve students' concentration and knowledge when listening. Abhimanyu (2023) claims that because English song lyrics are the focus of the listener's attention, listening to English songs helps the listener acquire new vocabulary and practice their pronunciation in addition to improving their listening abilities.

How to Improve Listening Skills with Spotify Application a. Micro Skills of Listening

Through the use of Spotify, Gen Z was able to distinguish between different English sounds when listening to English songs.

It is easier to hear the English sounds produced because of Spotify's crystal-clear sound and the singer's smooth vocal delivery.

When listening to English songs on the Spotify app, Gen Z was also able to retrieve short- and long-term language segments from their short-term memory. The frequent playback of the music, they added, sharpened their memory of the English song lyrics they had heard.

When using Spotify to listen to English music, Gen Z recognize word patterns that indicate stressed and unstressed words because of the singer's flawless pronunciation, Gen Z also claimed that the sound quality when listened to through the Spotify app was excellent.

The majority of the reduced terms they recognized were ones they typically encountered in daily life. Gen Z was able to recognize shortened variants of words while listening to English songs on Spotify. After listening to songs on Spotify, they were also able to identify the main phrases and definitions of the songs, which helped them grasp the music more easily.

When listening to English songs on Spotify, Gen Z proved that they could process the speech of singers with varying tempos and speeds of delivery. While they listened to English music on Spotify, they were able to identify and manage speech that contained errors, pauses, and changes. Upon listening to English songs on Spotify, they demonstrated their ability to recognize word categories such as present tense, past tense, and others based on their familiarity with the word structure. They can now discern the main idea and supporting lines in English songs they like while concurrently understanding the lyrics that are available on Spotify. This ability was gained through using the Spotify application to listen to English music. As they listen to English music on Spotify, Gen Z can distinguish between distinct meanings conveyed through language patterns. By listening to English music on Spotify, they can recognize

cohesive aspects in verbal discourse, which they believe are highly prevalent and easy to recognize.

b. Macro Skills of Listening

With the use of the Spotify app, Gen Z claimed to have been able to recognize the speech function in the song they were listening to. They also noted that the song's lyrics helped comprehend the song's content. Listening to English songs on Spotify, they can connect the situation in the song with real-life circumstances, making the song easier to understand. In addition, the singer occasionally depicts similar situations in her songs, which further simplifies the song's meaning. Additionally, by using Spotify to listen to English music, they were able to make deductions and comprehend the causes and effects of the songs.

When listening to English songs on Spotify, Gen Z can distinguish between the meaning that is expressed clearly and implicitly. They believe that sentences with implicit meaning have very complex sentence structures. When they listen to English music on Spotify, they are quite good at guessing the meaning of terms that they are still unfamiliar with.

C. Further Discussion

According to Hue's (2019) findings, listeners with greater exposure to listening activities demonstrate an increased ability to identify sounds and make connections between those sounds and written words. The brain starts processing incoming information by splitting it up into smaller chunks when engaging in listening activities and this helps the brain store the knowledge in our short-term memory (Yurko & Styfanyshyn, 2020). Stress is commonly used in the English language to draw attention to and underline the main ideas that the speaker wants the listener to understand (Hue, 2019).

In addition to helping the brain retain language sequences, colloquial language—which is made up of slang, abbreviations, and cultural knowledge—also contributes to the complexity of listening (Brown & Abewickrama, 2010). In addition, Segalowitz et al. (2008) stated when it comes to spoken language comprehension in listening activities, the ability to identify essential words in conversational speech is a fundamental component and automatic word recognition development is thought to be crucial for language learners. According to Amir (2019), communication speed is influenced by the speaker's fluency, which is why it's important to get more comfortable with the tone of English discourse.

Purnama et al. (2019) clarified that a restricted comprehension of the English sound system is the root cause of listening problems and that to address this, a deeper understanding of the English phonological system is required. Lynch & Mendelsohn (2010) state that a specific level of language proficiency is required to address listening comprehension. It includes mastery of both the grammar and sound systems. According to Rokhaniyah's (2017) research, learner activity in listening comprehension exercises helped students become more focused and recognize the topic's core concept and supporting phrases.

Phan & Nguyen (2024) state that confusing grammatical patterns are one of the many issues listeners encounter when performing listening comprehension. As such, listeners should study linguistics more and develop suitable listening techniques. Hue (2019) claims that most English speakers communicate in a simpler spoken language, using standalone phrases joined by basic conjunctions like "and," "but," "then," and so on, instead of writing in a language that combines a range of linguistic features. Hue (2019) states that to predict and comprehend language based on comparable experiences in the past, listeners may employ analogies to relate what they hear

and experience to what they know about circumstances, people, locations, and more.

According to Hue (2019), listeners may employ analogies to predict and comprehend language based on similar experiences in the past by comparing what they hear and experience to what they know about circumstances, people, and places. To be able to draw inferences during listening exercises, Ebrahimi (2017) found that students who need to increase their vocabulary should also practice frequently in their daily lives. Listeners must be able to infer the implicit information as well as comprehend the explicit portion of the communication, according to Vandergrift & Goh (2009). According to Vahdany et al. (2016), when listening to English spoken aloud, learners seek to deduce the meaning of unknown words by applying logical reasoning and inference procedures along with the topic's content.

The use of apps like Spotify is strongly advised for Gen Z students looking to improve their English language proficiency because, in addition to being able to support and facilitate learning across a range of skills, particularly listening, Spotify can help reduce monotony and boredom in learning activities. It is suggested that teachers make full use of the Spotify application to help Gen Z students improve their English language proficiency, as it is a very helpful tool for assisting language study.

Author

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HOW TO TEACH ENGLISH TO GEN Z STUDENTS

This "How to Teach English to Gen Z Students" book is a valuable resource for English teachers, particularly those who work with students from the Gen 7 generation. The book provides an understanding of the unique characteristics and learning styles of Gen Z students, offering strategies for engaging them effectively in the classroom. It includes examples of class activities that can be easily incorporated into lesson plans, making it an essential tool for any English teacher looking to improve their teaching methods and stay current with the latest trends in education. This book is the collaborative effort of 31 authors who are experts in their field and altogether present a comprehensive guide that assures the enhancement of teaching practices that trigger Gen Z students' English language learning outcomes.



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