

TEACHING LISTENING WITH TECHNOLOGY

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Abstract: Teaching Listening with Technology Incorporating technology into teaching listening skills has revolutionized language education, offering diverse and engaging opportunities for learners. Digital tools such as podcasts, language learning apps, video platforms, and speech recognition software enable students to access authentic and varied listening materials tailored to their proficiency levels. These technologies promote active listening, improve comprehension, and foster critical thinking by exposing learners to real-world language usage, diverse accents, and cultural contexts. More over, interactive tools like online quizzes, gamified listening exercises, and AI-powered language platforms provide immediate feedback, helping learners identify and address weaknesses. Teachers benefit from these tools by gaining access to customizable resources, analytics to monitor progress, and opportunities to create collaborative, student-centered learning environments. Despite these advantages, challenges such as ensuring equitable access to technology, selecting appropriate materials, and maintaining student engagement persist. Effective integration of technology into listening instruction requires careful planning, training, and pedagogical innovation to maximize its potential in fostering language proficiency. This paper explores the pedagogical benefits, challenges, and best practices for teaching listening with technology, emphasizing its transformative role in modern language education.

Key words: Multimedia, Podcasts, Interactive, Transcription, Webinars, Speech Recognition, Digital Resources, Language Apps, Virtual Reality, Listening Comprehension.

Multimedia refers to the integration of multiple forms of media to convey information or enhance learning experiences. This can include a combination of text, audio, images, animations, video, and interactive content. In the context of education, multimedia can be a powerful tool for teaching and learning, as it caters to different learning styles and preferences.

Benefits of Multimedia in Education:

1. Engagement: Multimedia resources can capture students' attention and keep them engaged through dynamic content.
2. Enhanced Understanding: Visuals and audio can help clarify complex concepts, making them easier to understand.
3. Accessibility: Multimedia can accommodate diverse learners, including those with different language proficiencies or learning disabilities.
4. Interactivity: Many multimedia tools allow for interactive elements, enabling students to actively participate in their learning process.
5. Real-World Context: Multimedia can provide real-world examples and scenarios that make learning more relevant and applicable.

Examples of Multimedia in Listening Instruction:

- Videos: Incorporating videos that feature native speakers can improve listening skills by exposing students to different accents and contexts.
- Podcasts: Using audio podcasts can help students practice listening

comprehension in a variety of topics. • Interactive Simulations: Tools that simulate conversations or real-life situations can enhance practical listening skills. Overall, multimedia is an effective way to enrich the educational experience and foster deeper understanding in students.

What is a Podcast? A podcast is a digital audio program that is available for streaming or download, typically released as a series of episodes. Podcasts can cover a wide range of topics, including education, news, storytelling, interviews, entertainment, and more. They are often produced by individuals, organizations, or companies and can be accessed through various platforms and apps. Key Features of Podcasts: 1. Format: Podcasts can vary in format, including interviews, discussions, narrative storytelling, or educational content. They can be scripted or unscripted. 2. Accessibility: Podcasts are available on multiple platforms, such as Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, and many others, making them easily accessible to a broad audience. 3. Subscription Model: Listeners can subscribe to their favorite podcasts, receiving notifications when new episodes are released. 4. On-Demand Listening: Unlike traditional radio shows, podcasts allow listeners to choose when and where to listen, providing flexibility. 5. Diverse Content: There is a podcast for nearly every interest or niche, catering to various audiences and preferences.

The term "interactive" generally refers to a two-way engagement between users and a system, allowing for active participation rather than passive consumption. This concept is widely applied across various fields, including: 1. Technology and Software: Interactive software includes applications and games that allow users to engage actively with the content. Examples include video games, educational software, and interactive simulations. 2. Web Design: Interactive websites use elements like buttons, forms, and animations that respond to user actions. This enhances user experience and encourages engagement. 3. Education: Interactive learning involves methods that engage students actively, such as group discussions, hands-on activities, and digital tools that allow for real-time feedback and collaboration. 4. Art and Media: Interactive art installations invite viewers to participate in the artwork, often altering the experience based on their actions. Similarly, interactive storytelling allows audiences to influence the narrative. 5. Marketing: Interactive marketing involves engaging consumers through quizzes, polls, or games, creating a more memorable brand experience.

What is a Webinar? A webinar (short for "web-based seminar") is an online event that allows participants to engage in real-time discussions, presentations, or training sessions through the internet. Webinars can be interactive, allowing for QA sessions, polls, and chats, or they can be more lecture-style presentations. Key Features of Webinars: 1. Live Interaction: Participants can ask questions, share comments, and interact with the presenter and other attendees during the session. 2. Visual Presentation: Webinars often include slideshows, videos, and other visual aids to enhance the presentation and keep the audience engaged. 3. Recording Options: Many webinars are recorded, allowing participants to access the content later or for those who could not attend live. 4. Accessibility: Webinars can reach a global audience, making it easy for people from different locations to participate without travel. 5. Variety of Topics: Webinars can cover a wide range of subjects, including professional development, product demonstrations, educational content, and more. Benefits of Webinars: • Cost-Effective: They eliminate the need for travel and venue costs associated with in-person events. • Convenient: Participants can join from anywhere with an internet connection, making it easier to fit into

busy schedules. • Engagement: Interactive features like polls and QA sessions keep participants engaged and encourage active participation. • Networking Opportunities: Webinars can facilitate connections among participants, allowing for networking and collaboration. Common Uses of Webinars: • Training and Education: Organizations use webinars for employee training or educational purposes in schools and universities. • Marketing: Businesses often use webinars as a marketing tool to showcase products or services and generate leads. • Thought Leadership: Industry experts host webinars to share knowledge, insights, and trends within their field.

What is Speech Recognition? Speech recognition is a technology that enables the conversion of spoken language into text. It involves the use of algorithms and machine learning models to analyze audio signals and interpret them as words and sentences. This technology can be found in various applications, including virtual assistants, transcription services, and voice-controlled devices.

Language learning apps have revolutionized the way people acquire new languages, offering accessible and engaging methods for learners of all levels. Here's a comprehensive overview of popular language learning apps, their features, benefits, and some challenges associated with using them. Virtual reality (VR) is an immersive technology that can significantly enhance listening comprehension, particularly in language learning and education. Here's an overview of how VR can be utilized to improve listening skills, along with its benefits and challenges. Virtual Reality in Listening Comprehension. Overview, Virtual reality creates a simulated environment that can engage users through sight, sound, and sometimes touch. In the context of language learning, VR can provide immersive experiences that replicate real-life situations where learners can practice listening skills in a more contextualized and interactive manner. How VR Enhances Listening Comprehension 1. Immersive Environments: • VR allows learners to experience different cultural settings where the target language is spoken. This immersion helps learners understand context, tone, and cultural nuances that are often lost in traditional learning environments. 2. Realistic Conversations: • Learners can engage in simulated conversations with avatars or virtual characters. This helps them practice listening to various accents, dialects, and speech patterns in a controlled setting. 3. Contextual Learning: • By placing learners in realistic scenarios (e.g., ordering food in a restaurant, asking for directions), VR helps them develop their listening comprehension in relevant contexts. This situational practice aids retention and understanding. 4. Interactive Feedback: • Many VR applications can provide immediate feedback on comprehension and pronunciation. This interactive element encourages learners to adjust their listening strategies in real-time. 5. Gamification: • VR experiences often incorporate gamified elements that make learning enjoyable and engaging. Challenges and rewards can motivate learners to improve their listening skills. 6. Multisensory Engagement: • VR engages multiple senses, which can enhance memory retention. The combination of visual cues and auditory input can help reinforce language concepts.

Virtual reality has the potential to revolutionize how we approach listening comprehension in language learning. By providing immersive, interactive experiences that mimic real-life situations, VR can enhance engagement and improve listening skills. However, challenges such as cost, accessibility, and content availability must be addressed to maximize its effectiveness in educational settings. As technology continues to advance, the integration of

VR into language learning is likely to become more widespread, offering exciting opportunities for learners worldwide.

In conclusion, Teaching listening skills through technology offers innovative and effective approaches that enhance the learning experience. Tools such as podcasts, interactive apps, and virtual reality provide diverse opportunities for learners to engage with authentic audio materials, practice comprehension in real-world contexts, and receive immediate feedback. These technologies cater to various learning styles and preferences, making listening practice more accessible and enjoyable. By integrating technology into listening instruction, educators can create dynamic, interactive environments that not only improve comprehension but also motivate learners to develop their language skills in meaningful ways. As technology continues to advance, its role in language education will likely expand, offering even more resources for effective listening instruction.

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