

USING FILMS AND TV SHOWS IN TEACHING LISTENING

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Abstract: This article explores the role of films and TV shows as powerful tools for teaching listening skills in language education. These audio-visual resources offer learners authentic exposure to language, including diverse accents, natural speech patterns, and real-life contexts. By integrating films and TV shows into listening lessons, educators can provide students with opportunities to develop their listening comprehension while also improving their cultural awareness and engagement. The article discusses effective strategies for selecting suitable materials, designing interactive activities, and assessing learners' progress. It concludes that using films and TV shows in the classroom not only enhances listening proficiency but also motivates learners to actively participate in the language learning process.

Keywords: Films and TV shows, teaching listening skills, language education, listening comprehension, authentic language materials, audio-visual learning, cultural awareness, language acquisition, Interactive teaching strategies, listening proficiency.

Learning English can be challenging; nevertheless, incorporating media like films and TV shows into your study routine can make the experience more enjoyable and effective. Here are the key benefits of using English through films and TV shows to enhance your language learning experience: **Key Benefits of Using Media for Language Learning**

Exposure to authentic language: For starters, movies and television shows expose viewers to realistic language used in real-world circumstances. This contains slang, idiomatic idioms, and distinct accents, which help students comprehend how English is spoken in various situations. As a result, you can learn to identify and use language like native speakers doing

Improved listening skills: Second, viewing movies and television shows dramatically improves listening abilities. Media helps learners hear and interpret spoken English in ordinary interactions by exposing them to various speech patterns, speeds, and accents. This activity is essential for improving communication abilities.

Contextual Learning: Furthermore, media provides visual context, which enhances comprehension. Facial expressions, body language, and situational settings assist learners in understanding the meaning of words and phrases better than standard textbook techniques. Thus, contextual learning through media can lead to more profound and intuitive knowledge.

Cultural insights: In addition, media content conveys essential cultural insights and social conventions. Understanding the context in which specific terms are used is critical to efficient communication and social integration. As a result, learning through media aids not only in language acquisition but also in cultural understanding.

Motivation and engagement: Another benefit is that studying through entertainment keeps students motivated and engaged. Enjoyable information turns the learning process into an

enjoyable pastime, boosting the likelihood of persistent practice. Long-term language acquisition relies on ongoing motivation.

Vocabulary Growth: Moreover, movies and television shows introduce a diverse vocabulary, ranging from everyday words to specialized terminology. Repeated exposure to new words in various situations aids in vocabulary development, and as a result, your vocabulary expands in strength and versatility.

Pronunciation and intonation: Finally, listening to native speakers in movies and television shows can help students improve their pronunciation and intonation. Mimicking actors and repeating dialogues can be an excellent way to develop natural speaking patterns, which can greatly improve one's spoken English skills.

Teaching English by using films has gained attention in the EFL classroom, including in Indonesia. Some lecturers and teachers choose to use films to introduce the class with the lesson that tends to illustrate real-life content. The use of films in the class is still related to curricular demand. While at the same time the material is delivered sufficiently, the attracting and engaging audiovisual aids of the film motivate and enhance the learners' willingness to study. When the learners are motivated to study, then the goal of teaching will be easily reached as the learners will encourage themselves to be actively involved in the learning process. There are many reasons behind the use of films in the teaching and learning activity. One of them is that the rich content of films introduces the learners to be exposed to a real-life situation and sometimes to the world of imagination. These audiovisual media lead the learners to use and optimize their sight and hearing to grasp the information delivered by the films. These two senses, sight and hearing, enable the learners to absorb the input more optimally. Another reason for using films to teach English is that films offer opportunities for developing fluency. Since the English films present the English language spoken by a native speaker of English, the learners as the audiences will notice and unconsciously learn how to speak and use the English language appropriately. The main purpose of using films in the classroom is generally because the lecturers or the teachers want to introduce and accustom their students to listen to English. This is the primary idea of teaching listening. While listening is not merely hearing but comprehending the spoken passage, the students are demanded to have listening comprehension skills for the listening activity. When the students can comprehend the spoken passage from the film, they will be able to catch the idea and the message implied and explicated from the films played. That is the goal of teaching listening comprehension. Thus, the lecturers and the teachers should teach their students to master listening comprehension skills. Despite its strengths, the use of films in the class activity has raised controversy among classroom teachers who have mandated curriculum to follow and the limited time allocated. This is because some teachers still perceive films as a medium of entertainment and not for the pedagogical setting

Before we dive into the specific strategies, it's important to understand why films and TV shows are excellent tools for IELTS listening practice:

Authentic language: They expose you to natural, conversational English.

Diverse accents: You'll hear a variety of accents, crucial for the IELTS test.

Context-rich scenarios: Visual cues help with comprehension.

Engaging content: Makes learning more enjoyable and motivating.

Strategies for Effective Practice: Choose Appropriate Content

Not all films and TV shows are created equal when it comes to IELTS listening practice. Here's how to select the best content: Start with genres that match IELTS topics (e.g., documentaries, news programs)

Gradually increase difficulty level .Look for clear audio and well-articulated speech.Choose content with available subtitles or transcripts.“Selecting the right material is half the battle. Aim for content that challenges you without overwhelming you,” advises Dr. Emma Thompson, IELTS examiner and language acquisition expert.

Active Listening Techniques:To make the most of your practice sessions, employ these active listening strategies:Watch without subtitles first

Take notes on key information

Pause and rewind to clarify unclear points

Focusing on speaker's subtle hints can greatly improve your comprehension .Targeted Listening Exercises:Transform your viewing experience into structured practice:Predict content before watching scenes.Answer self-created questions about the content.Summarize main points after each scene or episode.Identify and note down new vocabulary or expressions4. Accent Familiarization IELTS listening tests feature various accents. Use films and TV shows to:Expose yourself to different English accents (British, American, Australian, etc.)Prepare for unfamiliar accents by watching international productionsPractice identifying key information despite accent variations

5. Improve Concentration SkillsHow to avoid distractions from background noise in IELTS listening is crucial. Use these techniques:Start with quieter scenes and gradually move to noisier onesPractice focusing on dialogue amidst background music or sound effectsSet time limits for focused listening, gradually increasing durationAdvanced Techniques for IELTS Listening Mastery.Once you've mastered the basics, try these advanced strategies:

1. ShadowingRepeat dialogues in real-time to improve pronunciation and listening speed.
2. Transcription PracticeTranscribe short scenes to enhance your ability to catch every word.
3. Analyze Discourse Markers.Pay attention to transitional phrases and linking words used in conversations.
4. Cultural Context AnalysisNote how cultural references impact communication and understandingIncorporating films and TV shows into your IELTS listening practice can be both effective and enjoyable. By following these strategies and consistently applying them, you'll not only improve your listening skills but also enhance your overall English proficiency. Remember, the key to success is regular practice and gradual progression. So, grab your popcorn, settle in, and start turning your entertainment time into valuable IELTS preparation!Improving overall listening fluency is a journey, and with these film and TV show techniques, you're well on your way to IELTS success. Happy listening

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