

Hello everyone

Our course is listening and speaking skills; so supposedly in an ideal situation, our course has to be practical and we have to practice, listen and speak, but since we don't have the tools to do that; our course is going to be theoretical. Yet, we will practice as much as we can. I have sent a file for the material of our subject to you online also at the previous lecture. I have given you homework that is to listen to the biography of a very famous figure in the business world; Elon Musk; Have anybody of you listened to his biography?

Student: I have read about him.

Instructor: Reading requires another kind of skills; I want you to listen and to understand the ideas; not to read through our course.

When reading, you have more time to understand the ideas. So, in our course, I need you to listen.

In reading skills, you always have time to understand and translate the sentence, but in listening, you have to understand what I'm saying instantly.

For example, when you listen to me, you have to understand me in the exact minute, you can't stop to think about the new vocabulary that you are not familiar with; you can't check them in the dictionary while I'm speaking. It is not like reading; you have to try to guess what I'm saying by the context. So, this type of listening has a name which is Top-bottom listening and we will talk about it later on.

Now, who listened to an audio biography about Elon Musk?

Student: yes, I did.

Instructor: What have you learned from your listening?

Student: I've learned some information about his life.

Instructor: Tell me something. He is a very impressive person.

Student: He was an isolated person and he loved to read books a lot as he was a child. He read all the books in the library of his school then he went to his neighborhood library and read the books there.

Instructor: So, he was a good reader. What about his education?

Student: He left studying.

Instructor: But he has had two degrees; what are they?

Student: physics, economy and mechanic engineering.

Instructor: Yes, precisely. What was his first commercial business?

Student: PayPal.

When you hear an audio or when you watch a video in the English language, what are the problems that you feel that you are facing?

Student: When the audio is a native speaking, I have a problem with the speed that they speak in. I may get the meaning but I hardly recognize the unfamiliar vocabulary. They also drop some letters and that makes it challenging for us to understand the accent.

Instructor: It's normal specially that we as human beings get distracted while we are listening for a long time, for a minute, or even a few seconds and that's normal. Actually, we are at the end human beings. The much more difficult than listening is paying attention for the lecture. I'm sure that you face that during the lectures; you feel bored and that is normal, but you have to alert your self to come back to the lecture in the right time.

There is also another obstacle in the listening, which is when you don't like the one who speaks, instead of listening to him when he talks, you find yourself thinking about his bad behaviors and your hatred to him\her. Try when listening to free your mind and emotions and listen to the speaker in order to understand what he said.

Student: There is another problem also. If the speaker is very attractive that makes me incapable to focus on what he is saying.

Instructor: So, you get distracted by the beauty of the speaker. Haaaa, well it's a legitimate reason.

In teaching language, there are four skills:

Reading,

Writing,

Listening,

Speaking

We have to be familiar with all the four skills, but in our university, we focus mainly on reading and writing. That's why some students can't communicate successfully with others using the English language, and they can't write. I noticed that we have really bad marks in writing essays. Writing is a high skill that you must be good at.

When a child is learning how to speak, what is the first skill that helps him with that? Listening: How many years he spends in listening before he can speak? Most children start speaking small words; mammy, eat, sleep; when they are one and a half year. Then, they start speaking small sentences from 2 to 3 years.

They spend three years listening to us in order to be capable of speaking. So, notice how important listening is. Listening is an input skill; I observe information and I keep it in my mind.

Speaking is an output that helps me to express the information. So, listening is our first skill.

As we are children what do we learn through listening?
Do we only learn the language?

Students' answers: pronunciation, culture

Instructor: We understand culture schema and values. We as Arab have our own culture that has taught us the use of our language. For example: we have our own vocabulary about women in our culture.

We also have a cultural back ground about man in our society. We have a cultural schema about getting married.

Student: What is schema?

Instructor: Schema is like a culture program. Is our culture being as the Chinese, for example? No.

Do we eat the same food that they do? No.

Do they have the same manners just as the ones that we do? No.

We are different. So, we are different by our principles, values, and the way we speak. I speak to my mother differently than the way I speak to my friend. differently than the way I speak during the lecture, and differently than the way I speak in the street. So, language is not just about speaking. It's actually who you are, the way that you identify yourself as a woman, as a mother, as a lecturer, it expresses your own personality.

This is the schema: the natural background that I take as I'm learning language. It is the concise understanding for your civilization. It's a mental structure that you have inquired through communication with your society. It's the way society has formulated us. We are formulated subjects. We are not free, so it's a theory.

What does make you Syrian? What distinguishes you as a Syrian woman? What's special about the Syrian woman is

her respect to her family and husband. She obeys her husband. She has certain roles to do as a house wife, and so are the men.

How are the Syrian man different from other Arab men? Do you think that they are all the same, or that the schema of each culture makes them different? In spite of similarity between men in all the cultures, like that the man is the one who is supposed to bring bread to the family, he is the one responsible for feeding his own family.

If you went on a date with a western man, you find yourself sharing the bill with him, while the Syrian man will pay the whole bill. It's not acceptable for him to let a woman pay while she's with him. This is a schema; this behavior has been installed in them as children and kept on after they grew up. So, we gain schema by listening. When I grow up, I listen to my mum and I gain her attitude; that's why we look like our mothers in general. This is how my grandmother passes her identity to my mother, and my mother to me, and I will pass it to my kids.

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What is the difference between listening and hearing?

Student: hearing is the reception of the sound. Listening is understanding the sound. Hearing is passive. Listening is active.

Instructor: so, hearing is just receiving the sound. When you hear the Russian or Chinese language, you are just hearing the sound without recognizing the meaning of it. You are incapable of creating meaning, but when you listen to an Arabic or English language, you can comprehend the sound and create meaning of it.

This is all in the file that I have sent last week; so next lecture, I want you to bring the file with you so we can read,

and I will explain the material in the file, and you have to study it at home.

In the lecture we will read the words here; is the first letter for the best strategy to how to listen, comprehend, and understand what the speaker's saying. The first letter is:

1) **H** fort **halt** like be aware; it means listen to me. You have to be alert to me, to listen to what I'm saying, and that's for us to achieve an effective listening; that is to understand what I'm saying.

2) **E** is to **engage**. What's the meaning of engage? To involve with the topic; to interact; to anticipate

3) **Replay** this is very important for review. I'm judging the information; I'm evaluating the information.

I just want you to be familiar with the word **discourse**. It is really important for listening. When you know the discourse, the discussion about the Islamic discourse, you can understand the speaker's words because of your knowledge about their discourse, their ideas, their project because it's ours too. You will expect what the speaker is saying.

There are two types of listening **top-down** and **bottom-up**.
Top-down: is like I'm familiar with the subject and I can understand the idea. I don't have to know it word by word. I can catch the meaning. I use my knowledge to understand what the speaker is saying.

Bottom-top: It's like if I want to give the address of my house; the directions to my house for the first time; what do you do? You pay attention to each word I'm saying, so you can get the direction correctly. So, you pay attention to the vocabulary and to every detail.

When I want the general idea, I will use Top-bottom, but a good listener uses both strategies. If I'm listening for example to a technical text or to a mathematic problem, I don't understand every word.

These terms or concepts you are going to read in our lectures, you have to read it and comprehend it.

That's all for today
Study well.

Alanwar
Est. >>>A<<<



كل يوم مقولة الأنوار

لن تستطيع تعديل
الماضي لذلك ركز على
صنع مستقبل عظيم
You can't change the
past , so focus on making
a great future

