

INFLUENCE OF PODCASTS ON IMPROVING ENGLISH VOCABULARY FOR NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS

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Abstract

In today's global world, a student needs to compete with the outside world to retain their professional career. In this process of attaining success, a non-native speaker needs to make progress in their language skills to compete with industry standards. As we are immersed in a technology-driven society, it's laying a platform where students are encouraged to involve themselves and improvise their language skills with the help of English podcasts, which play an important role in language acquisition. Podcasts are particularly popular with the younger generation since they are flexible and give language learners access to resources from anywhere at any time. Acquiring a list of vocabulary words may lead to pupils using them incorrectly; nevertheless, listening to podcasts can help students expand their vocabulary by selecting new words while engaging in an engaging narrative. These will assist the student in extracting words precisely from the context. Podcasts such as Podcasts in English, The English We Speak, ESL Pod, Better at English, Voice of America Learning English, EnglishClass 101, Elementary Podcasts, Splendid Speaking, This American Life, Global News etc., will reduce stress and improve active listening skills, which expands learning and reduces time. Thus, the mentioned podcasts will not only improve English vocabulary but also increases students English Fluency and encourages speaking English confidently.

Keywords: Technology-driven – Podcasts – Active Listening Skills – Vocabulary

INTRODUCTION

A podcast is an audio file that may be listened to on a website or app on your phone, computer, or other device. It is comparable to a radio broadcast. It can also be considered as online recordings of shows that may be listened to on an MP3 device by downloading them. It was known as audio blogging in its early incarnations. Individuals would record their works and disseminate the audio online, akin to

auditory blog entries. Ben Hammersly coined the term "podcast" to refer to this type of content back in 2004. The name was a combination of the terms broadcast and iPod. Every podcast has a different objective, most of them are meant to be entertaining. A podcast can be listened to for entertainment, to stay up to date on current affairs, or to learn more about a certain subject. Additionally effective as a marketing tool is a podcast.



Figure 1

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Digital recordings called podcasts are a highly well-liked technical aid for language acquisition, particularly for English language learners. Because they are adaptable and let language learners access resources from anywhere at any time, podcasts are especially popular with younger listeners.

They are also a fantastic resource for those learning a language. They provide you with an easy and adaptable method to become fully immersed in your new language, learn new grammar and vocabulary, and enhance your listening abilities. Podcast players have features that are perfect for language learners.

All things considered, compared to many other internet hobbies, podcasts provide an informative kind of enjoyment and a screen substitute. It's among the top instructional technologies available to educators for use in the classroom.

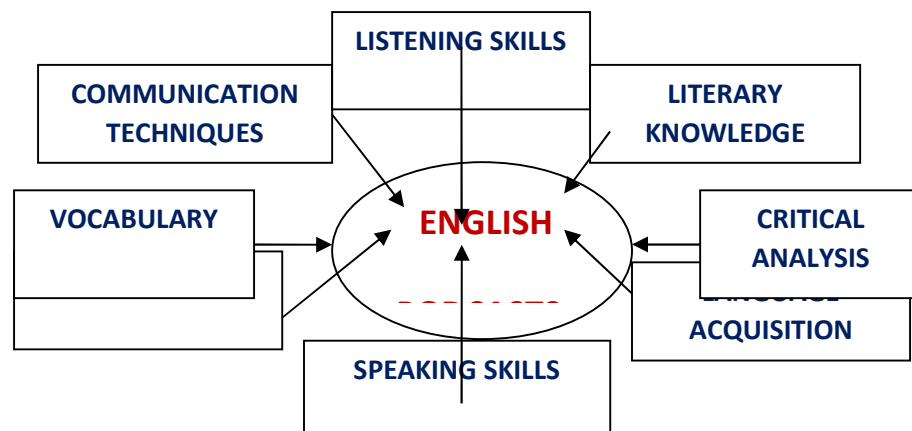
A great tool for language learners is podcasts. With all of their capabilities and the diversity of information available, podcasts offer a large platform for language learning. They offer flexibility, variety, and accessibility as students can broaden their knowledge towards contextual vocabulary which makes them to know the correct usage according to the context without deviation.

BENEFITS OF USING PODCASTS

- ✓ Listening to podcasts while reading fosters literacy and self-assurance
- ✓ Podcasts include a wide range of story genres and topics
- ✓ Students who are easily distracted stay incredibly engaged when they read along
- ✓ Students get acquainted with the new vocabulary which develops language skills
- ✓ .Podcasts are always up to date, free, and easily accessible
- ✓ Give students the opportunity to practice understanding complicated, formal, and conversational texts through listening comprehension exercises

- ✓ Audiences are highly engaged with material that aligns with their personal interests and way of life
- ✓ Learners of English as a second language express satisfaction with their ability to read words and instantly "hear how they're supposed to sound." Understanding is aided by pronunciation and prosody, which are the emphasis and intonation patterns people employ when speaking, particularly those learning English.
- ✓ Students involve themselves as they are connected to the content which enhances their language acquisition.
- ✓ Students are exposed to a broad range of communication techniques through podcasts, such as interviews, scripted dialogue, casual dialogue, and narration which helps them to improve contextual and functional vocabulary.

BENEFITS OF USING ENGLISH PODCASTS



The picture above illustrates the use of English podcasts to enhance communication skills, particularly for non-native speakers. These podcasts aid in the development of contextual vocabulary and the pronunciation of native speakers, which varies between British and American English speakers. This provides the opportunity to familiarize oneself with the correct pronunciation to meet professional requirements and foster a smooth working environment.

RECOMMENDED PODCASTS FOR IMPROVING ENGLISH VOCABULARY

The following podcasts are recommended for improving vocabulary, English fluency and increasing confidence among students.

- ESL Pod
- Coffee Break English
- Stories Podcast
- English 10 minutes
- Elementary Podcasts
- Splendid Speaking
- This American Life

➤ Global News

ESL Pod



The English as a Second Language Podcast aims to teach English through the use of common words and expressions that are spoken slowly, along with explanations of their meanings and applications. Students can get the lectures for free on the website or through an RSS feed or podcast app like iTunes. The ESL Podcast employs an instructional methodology grounded in second language acquisition research, emphasizing the provision of understandable input within a laid-back, welcoming environment.

The three weekly episodes of the ESL Podcast, which caters to intermediate and advanced English language learners, are divided into two dialog-based episodes on Mondays and Fridays and a lengthier, culturally-focused English Café on Wednesdays. Dialog-based episodes begin with a slow reading of a discussion in conversational English, which is followed by a vocabulary explanation and a native-rate reading of the same interaction. After covering two main topics of cultural significance for English language learners, the English Café usually concludes with a brief Q&A period based on feedback from listeners.

The ESL Podcast has published over a thousand standalone episodes since 2005. This is not your typical course, with no tasks or quizzes, just a beginning and an end. The episodes are centered on a variety of broad subjects that the learner can select from, including corporate English, travel, everyday life, health and fitness, shopping, and more. They are not arranged in any particular order. Podcast subscribers can get supplemental resources for every session in the form of an 8–10 page PDF learning guide for a set monthly cost. ESL Podcast employs a "freemium" business strategy, similar to other well-known language podcasts like ChinesePod, in which the audio files are offered without charge but the additional resources need a paid membership.

Coffee Break English

In keeping with the theme of hot beverages, Coffee Break English is a podcast that you can listen to during your morning tea break. Each episode lasts 15 minutes. Every week, Mark and Josie, the hosts, invite a guest from an English-speaking nation to discuss a particular facet of their culture or way of life. The speaker's language and subjects are the main topics of discussion in the second part of the program. It's an excellent method to see an idea in action and then see how it works. The podcast is appropriate for beginners with a rudimentary understanding of the language and is in slow English.

Stories Podcast

Looking for information meant for young native speakers is one of the finest methods to become fluent in a language. This brief is exactly met by Stories Podcast. Every episode tells a calm, straightforward, and understandable story, which may be an original narrative, a reworking of a fairy tale, or an old myth.

Selecting media meant for young native speakers is one of the finest strategies to become fluent in a language. Stories Podcast is the ideal answer to this question. Whether it's a retold fairy tale, an old myth, or an original narrative, every episode tells a leisurely, straightforward, and understandable story.

English in 10 Minutes

English in 10 Minutes is a weekly podcast aimed for intermediate and advanced learners. Each episode lasts about 10 minutes and includes authentic, unscripted English talks about people, places, and their stories.

Splendid Speaking

Splendid Speaking helps advanced English learners improve their speaking abilities and communication tactics. Each podcast includes a recording of non-native English speakers performing short tasks singly or in pairs, such as giving presentations or participating in debates. Each tape includes expert criticism on the speaker's performance. Also, go to the Splendid Speaking website at splendidspeaking.com to sign up for our newsletter, which includes instant access to transcripts for all podcasts. These recordings will be useful for students preparing for IELTS, TOEFL, TOEIC, Cambridge CAE, CPE, or BEC speaking exams. We also publish a weekly assignment sheet where you can try out a similar task, as well as a daily quiz with three colloquial terms.

CONCLUSION

Podcasts are a popular technical instrument for language learning, particularly among English language learners. Podcasts are especially appealing to the younger generation because they are adaptable, allowing students to access language-learning materials at any time and from any location.

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