



# Using Audiobooks to Build Student Success

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# Listening Quiz

## TRUE or FALSE

1. You can't learn to listen. You are either good at it or not.
2. Listening requires very little effort.
3. We use speaking skills more than listening skills.
4. Good speakers are usually good listeners.
5. You listen better as you get older.

(Dipterans, Dole & Maranon, 1984)

# What is Listening?

- ✓ It is the FIRST language mode learned  
“The most natural way to take in words is not through the eye but through the ear.” –Plato
- ✓ It is FUNDAMENTAL to learning all the other language arts: Reading, Writing, and Speaking.  
“Listening is not only at the heart of human interaction, but also the heart of teaching and learning” (Lundsteen, 1990)
- ✓ It is the most used of all language arts  
85% of what we learn, we learn by listening  
45% of the average day is spent listening
- ✓ Listening can be improved through practice and instruction  
Most listeners normally retain about 20% of content
- ✓ Listening does not improve with age alone  
The average adult attention span is 7 minutes

# Listening & Reading Connections

- Both share analogous features (both are language based)
- The vocabulary basis for both is oral
- Both include common skills and processes (noting details, make inferences, etc...)
- Both require the construction of meaning (Vardell, 2005)
- Both promote visualizing the characters & setting of a story

# More Links Between Reading & Listening

- “Reading depends so completely upon listening that the ability to listen seems to set limits on the ability to read.”  
(Erickson)
- “If a student cannot comprehend a message through listening, it is unlikely that she will comprehend that message through reading.” (Lundsteen)
- “Listening comprehension in the fifth grade was the best predictor of performance on range of aptitude and achievement tests in high school.” (Beers, 1998)

# Audiobooks Promote Development in Reading, Speaking, and Beyond

- Expose readers to new vocabulary
- Provide an understanding of correct pronunciation of English, dialects, and non-English words
- Provide demonstrations of fluent reading and appropriate phrasing, intonation, and articulation
- Expand access to materials for readers, including exposure to a variety of genres (including “harder” classics)
- Support struggling *and* gifted readers
- Promote a sense of intimacy and human connection

# Ideas for Children's/Teen Librarians

- **Summer is the time for family road trips—**  
This presents the perfect opportunity for sharing books that will change a boring drive into an exciting adventure!
- **June is Audiobook Month:** Prepare your patrons for listening their way into and through summer by creating eye-catching displays that highlight audiobooks.
- **Recommend the audio** when the book is checked out or the wait list is long
- **Think OUTSIDE the book** when developing the guidelines for your reading programs and community outreach.

# Ideas for Teachers/Librarians

- Listening Centers
- Book/Audiobook Backpacks
- Sharing Audiobooks In The Classroom
- Book/Audiobook Clubs
- Teasers

“**E**very summer hundreds of thousands of students are reading books on their summer reading list, and many of them, with the blessings of their teachers, are also listening to some of the books on the list.”

—Pat Scales, Noted Educator and Director of Library Services for the South Carolina Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities

## **Useful Links:**

- audiobooksandliteracy.com [drop in browser, not search engine]
- booksontape.com
- Follow us on Twitter! [@LLAudiobooks](https://twitter.com/LLAudiobooks)