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SOME TIPS TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR PASSING EXAMS

***Анотація.** Аудіювання вважається одним із найскладніших завдань іспиту. Для навчання аудіюванню необхідно давати студентам завдання з аудіювання, активізувати інтерес та увагу учнів шляхом обговорення питань про їхні почуття, досвід та знання теми. Читання є одним з найкращих способів вивчити нову лексику та закріпити розуміння граматики. Щоб викликати зацікавленість учнів, необхідно використовувати завдання перед читанням, які можуть включати обговорення питань за темою, вивчення ключових слів, необхідних для розуміння тексту, з надаванням визначень та синонімів).*

***Ключові слова:** студенти, навчання, аудіювання, читання, вивчення ключових слів, обговорення питань.*

Students take English exams to test and to prove their level of English. Most of exams are divided into different parts (speaking, listening, reading, writing etc.). Listening is considered one of the most difficult tasks. The listener is unable to concentrate on the message if the speech is too fast and if the speaker uses unclear pronunciation, unfamiliar accent or unknown words.

To understand the text for the exam it's necessary to understand most of the words from the text. For teaching listening it's a good practice to start with vocabulary, to take some tough words to teach the students, or have students skim the transcript and ask which words they are unfamiliar with. Studying the key vocabulary students have to find the definitions, synonyms or translation of the words. For example, the word "smart" can be explained as "having or showing a quick-witted intelligence", its synonyms are "clever", "intelligent".

It's better to give students the task before listening. After the second listening the transcripts can be handed out (especially for low level students, or for the students who are visual learners). The students can listen and read at the same time and then discuss any vocabulary questions about slang or idioms that come up. It's always good for students to listen to the teacher speaking English.

Before listening, the attention of students should be activated by discussing questions about their feelings, experience and knowledge on the topic. For example, before listening to the topic “Modern Art” students can discuss such questions, as:

1. What kind of art do you like: paintings, sculpture or ceramics?
2. Does art change the way you think or feel?
3. Do you think anyone can become an artist or do you need a special talent?
4. Have you ever fallen under influence of an art work?
5. Could you name famous artists and their masterpieces?

The questions, helpful after listening are: Who is talking? About What? and Why?

Before listening it's better to read quickly through the questions and underline key words and phrases. Students should listen to a short extract first and fulfill the task. Then after listening to the whole part they go into details, check and discuss all the tasks. Students are more engaged when they know they will be asked questions afterwards.

After listening, students should focus on grammar and vocabulary exercises. After-listening activities usually include answering and discussing questions and gap-filling exercises on grammar and vocabulary.

It is a fun for students to fill in the blanks while listening. This method ensures engagement for students during the listening and makes them aware of each word. The answers are checked together with the teacher. After filling the blanks students can concentrate on the overall meaning of the text. Another way of listening is to use transcripts creatively. It's necessary to listen to the recording first and then give students the cut-up transcript pieces to put them in the correct order.

There is a great variety of listening texts from the Internet, television, radio programs, lectures, speeches, announcements in transport, stores, airports, telephoning, ads, songs and poems. Songs and Internet videos are especially popular for teaching as they help to involve students into learning English and activate their interest.

Reading is another important way of getting a message and communication. Understanding reading or a written message is one of the most important tasks in our

everyday life. Reading is also one of the best ways to learn new vocabulary and to consolidate the understanding of grammar. To arouse the students' interest, we can use pre-reading activities that may include discussing questions on the topic, essential for understanding the text, giving the definitions and synonyms.

After-reading activities usually include tasks on discussing questions to the text, finding the key vocabulary and their definitions, exchanging opinions on the topic, summarizing the content of the text, explaining the title, writing questions the students are interested in and discussing the message of the author. In a reading test it's better to read the main text first to get an overall idea of the content before reading the accompanying questions. key words, looking for paraphrases, eliminating wrong answers.

An ideal way to ensure success for passing exams is to work through online practice with video lessons and interactive activities which offer a great variety of listening and reading learning materials.

Preparing for exams students develop their language skills and critical thinking, necessary for their future work and learning. Studying different topics, they learn to analyze and develop their ideas. In studying languages through reading, listening and communication there's a lot of English to learn and enjoy. It's a good idea to make a habit to listen to music in English and work out the lyrics, watch videos, TV programmes and films, try to find a language exchange partner, practice the language skills online and read as much as possible. Many exams include writing tasks, and there is no doubt that students who write best are those that read most.

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