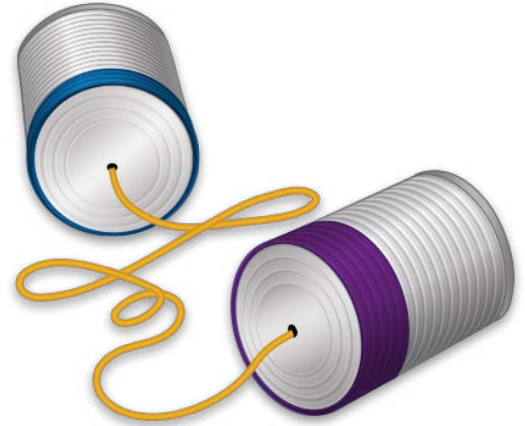


# Listening Comprehension

## What Is Listening Comprehension?

Listening comprehension is the precursor to reading comprehension, so it's an important skill to develop. Listening comprehension isn't just *hearing* what is said—it is the ability to *understand* the words and relate to them in some way.

For example, when you hear a story read aloud, good listening comprehension skills enable you to *understand* the story, *remember* it, *discuss* it, and even *retell* it in your own words. You use these same comprehension skills when you read.



## How Listening Comprehension Develops

Listening comprehension begins at a young age as babies interact with people around them. It develops as they are read to, as they engage in conversation with their parents, and as they play games.

In grade school, [reading comprehension](#) generally lags behind listening comprehension, so the best way for a child to develop higher levels of comprehension is through non-print sources (read-alouds, discussions, movies, and so on). But even after a child learns to read, listening comprehension continues to be important.

In the [All About Reading](#) program, we intentionally develop listening comprehension through story discussions, [vocabulary development](#), and [read-alouds](#). In this way, kids grow in their knowledge of the world, absorb language structure, and [make connections](#) between old and new information.

## 4 Fantastic Ways to Develop Listening Comprehension

**Play fun games.** Play listening skills games such as [Mashed Potatoes](#). This silly game will provide your child with important listening practice and plenty of giggles, too! [Hedbanz](#) is another great game that will help build listening skills in a way the whole family can enjoy.

**Talk to your child.** If your child doesn't understand what words mean, comprehension isn't possible. The [Conversational Method for Teaching Vocabulary](#) is simply talking with your child and expanding upon vocabulary words that he has not yet learned.

**Make Reading Aloud Interactive.** Read lots of picture books aloud to your child. But don't just read! You can help your child's listening skills by turning reading into an interactive activity.

Here are a few ideas:

- Briefly explain unfamiliar words and situations to help your child build comprehension.
- Invite your child to make predictions. "What do you think will happen next?"
- Encourage your child to retell the story (or an exciting part of the story) to family members. Meal times are often a good time for retelling stories.
- Need book suggestions? Download our [extensive list](#).

**Listen to Audio Books Together.** Listening to audio books is another great "read-aloud" activity that provides ample opportunities for building listening skills. As you listen to a story together, react to the story, laugh at the funny parts, and express surprise or fear at the appropriate moments.

## Contact Us

Questions? Call us 715-477-1979 or email us at [support@allaboutlearningpress.com](mailto:support@allaboutlearningpress.com).

Visit [www.AllAboutReading.com](http://www.AllAboutReading.com) to learn more.