Pashto PTP Guidelines for Listening Skills

Listening skills in this guideline are defined by the level of the individual’s ability to understand the speech of one or more speakers in the following circumstances: listening to face-to-face conversations and phone conversations; listening to media (radio and TV broadcasts); listening to public lecturers or presentations; and listening to public announcements.

Novice: This level is characterized by the ability to identify isolated words and phrases, and to understand some short utterances supported by context. The text sources can be taken from the following: Public announcements & instructions, traffic information, weather forecasts, and TV/radio commercials.

**Novice 1**
- The listener can understand short utterances including simple questions and statements about one’s personal background, routine tasks, and simple instructions and directions, particularly when they are spoken slowly and clearly articulated.
- Repetition, rephrasing, or a slowed rate of speech is often requested for comprehension.

<Example>
- Do you have a brother or sister? 
- What country are you from? 
- What ethnicity are you?
- Babrak lives in the dormitory.
- The dormitory is far from the university.
- This bus does not go to the university.
- It is my father’s birthday tomorrow.
- Are you hungry?
- No, I am not hungry, I am thirsty.
- Does this restaurant serve national food?
- How many rooms are there in your house?

**Novice 2**
- The listener can understand longer sentence-length utterances and some short paragraph-length utterances, in face-to-face conversations and short phone conversations that are clearly articulated.
- Limited knowledge in vocabulary and grammar often results in misunderstanding of aural texts at this level.
- The listener can follow monologue text with a clear internal structural.
- The listener can catch the main points in short and clear announcements and to extract specific information from a short and clear aural input dealing with everyday matters (i.e., weather forecasts, traffic reports).

<Example>
- The doors of the dormitory are locked at ten-thirty at night.
- Open the window, it's hot.
- Don't sit on this chair, it's broken.
The movie "Hijrat" will be shown at eight in the evening on "Ashna" TV.

Don't write in the book!

Today in Kabul, the temperature is 6 degrees Celsius and the low was 1 below.

In Kandahar, today will be partly cloudy; the temperature will reach a high of 16 and fall to one degree at night.

Intermediate: This level is characterized by the listener’s ability to understand factual information and main ideas from paragraph-length aural texts delivered in an articulated manner. Lectures, presentations, and news broadcasts can be example text sources.

Intermediate 1

- The listener can identify main ideas and supporting details from short stretches of narrative and descriptive discourse about current events and everyday matters spoken at a normal rate.
- The subject matter in the aural texts is familiar to the listeners and clearly structured at this level (i.e., interviews, short lectures on familiar topics, and news reports about factual information).
- Limited vocabulary of the listeners results in frequent requests for repetition or rephrasing.

<Example I>

Boy, did a tan young man run past here?

Was he a short and fat young man with a black moustache?

Son of Abdul Karim Dzadzi, who is suffering mental disease, left home on Saur 10, 1387, and has gone missing. We request any of our dear countrymen who have information about him to kindly inform a police station or call 234-4567.

<Example II: Radio broadcast>

Francine Kaufman, a doctor of the children’s hospital of Los Angeles, says that a great number of children have type 2 diabetes. Doctor Kaufman adds that eating high-calorie food, obesity, and inactivity are the causes of this disease.
Intermediate 2

- The listener can identify main ideas and supporting details from longer stretches of discourse, including abstract and technical discussions.
- The listener may not be able to understand longer texts that are syntactically and lexically complex.
- The listener may not fully understand culturally implied meanings (connotations) beyond the surface-level meanings (denotations).

Example: Radio broadcast

The Ministry of Information and Culture of Afghanistan has announced that it has prepared names for 300 streets of the Kabul city. The naming of the streets of Kabul is proceeding in cooperation with the Kabul municipality. These streets are those which either didn't have any names or had been named arbitrarily by people. The Minister of Information and Culture says that naming the streets, both large and small, will also facilitate the work of firefighters. The Minister says that according to this project, about 1000 streets will be named. As for the policy followed in choosing the names, he says that the names chosen are those of prominent personalities in the history of Afghanistan from the beginning until independence, such as Mahmud Tarzi, Amanulla Khan, Mulla Mushk Alam, Alisher Nawayi and others.

Advanced: This level is characterized by the listener’s ability to extract main ideas and detailed information from extended spoken input on a variety of topics produced at various speeds in standard (and some nonstandard) dialects, and to make appropriate inferences about the aural text. TV, radio documentaries, debates, discussions, drama, shows, and movies can be used as potential text sources at this level.

Advanced 1

- The listener can identify the hierarchical level of information (i.e., the main points and relevant supporting details) from extended well-organized speech in a standard dialect.
- Insufficient target-language cultural knowledge or limited vocabulary may still interfere with complete understanding of an aural text.
- The listener can make appropriate inferences regarding the given text.
The recognition of culture-specific idiomatic expressions, proverbs and sayings, and register shifts begins to emerge.

<Example>

Security officials said that in Fariab, the northern province of Afghanistan, armed (people) have kidnapped three Afghan and two Chinese employees. Police said that the kidnapped Chinese (people) were engineers working on road construction. Imamzada, the deputy commander of the Fariab security (department), has stated that the two Chinese engineers, their two bodyguards, and a driver who were kidnapped were working for a Chinese road construction company.

Imamzada adds that the kidnapped people were on their way from a worksite to the company office. Security officials have announced that Afghan and foreign troops have started a search-and-rescue operation for the kidnapped (people). Officials said that during the operation more than twenty armed Taliban were arrested.

They add that the kidnapped people are possibly in the Ghurmach wulushwali (county). Ghurmach is a county from which armed people have launched many such operations.

Advanced 2

• The listener can comprehend discourse organization of an aural input that is longer than advanced 1–level oral texts, and can understand nonstandard dialects to some degree.

• The listener can detect the speaker’s attitude or values in the main topics addressed in the aural text.

• The listener can show awareness of socio-culturally implied meanings of the oral message (connotations).

<Example>
Wheat is a prominent agricultural product of Afghanistan. It is a staple of the people and is grown on two-thirds of the entire cultivated area. Throughout the country, more than two million hectares (eleven million jeribs) have been devoted to its cultivation. In the majority of regions of the country, it (wheat) is cultivated on land elevated from 350 to 330 meters (above sea-level), and even in the higher canyons of the Hindukush mountains (it is cultivated). The annual harvest of wheat of Afghanistan exceeds two million tons. In spite of this, the yield does not meet the needs of the population of the country, which is increasing day by day.