



Listening: the new reading

I love listening to audiobooks. I share my enthusiasm with teachers, parents, students, family members, and anyone else who will listen. Many agree with me in their success. But, at other times, I get comments such as "That's not really reading, is it?" or "I won't listen to audiobooks because that's cheating." Listening to books is certainly different from reading books, but is it cheating? Does listening to audiobooks count as reading?

When it comes to audiobooks, book lovers have different opinions on its benefits in comparison to the conventional reading of books. Some say it is same as reading, while others believe that they are a lazy alternative. Despite the opinions, audiobooks have found their way into the hearts of many book lovers and their popularity is just increasing with time.

There are many recognized benefits of audiobooks that make them suitable for many situations. Here are some of them:

1. **It improves pronunciation and fluency:** While the narrator recites the book, you can notice and learn the way he/she is pronouncing.
2. **It improves productivity:** Many people love listening to audiobooks in gym, or while going for a walk, or daily tasks like driving, cooking, cleaning,
3. **It improves focus and attention:** While listening to an audiobook, you need to pay attention to what the narrator is communicating.
4. **It improves memory:** The ability to keep crucial information improves with the number of audiobooks you listen to.
5. **It improves comprehension skills:** While listening to an audiobook, a lot of information are being processed in our brain simultaneously.



Questions

There are four words that are underlined in the text. Match them with their correct meaning.

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|-----------------|--|
| • cheat(ing) | • the ability to express easily and properly |
| • increase(ing) | • behave dishonestly to gain advantage |
| • fluency | • the moment a person does useful work |
| • productivity | • become larger in amount or size |

Check the correct answers: ☒

Listening to audiobooks is considered as cheating because:

- a) Some people think listening is worse than reading
- b) Some people think listening is the lazy alternative
- c) Some people think listening is for music, not books

Are audiobooks becoming popular nowadays?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) It doesn't say

How can audiobooks help with fluency?

- a) You can hear and replicate correct pronunciation.
- b) You can borrow the narrator's voice.
- c) You can understand what the narrator is saying.

How can audiobooks help with productivity?

- a) You can multitask while listening to an audiobook.
- b) You can learn about productivity with an audiobook.
- c) You can ask people to do things for you because you're busy.

How can audiobooks help with focus?

- a) Your brain absorbs the information the narrator is saying.
- b) You are indifferent by the narrator story.
- c) You learn to pay attention to what the narrator is expressing.

How can audiobooks help with memory?

- a) You create information based on what you're listening.
- b) You retain all of the information you listen to.
- c) You select the information you want to remember.

How can audiobooks help with comprehension?

- a) You understand all of the information you're receiving.
- b) You understand just by listening.
- c) You understand and visualize the narrator's voice.

REFLECT ON THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

Do you consider listening to audiobooks as cheating reading?

Have you listened to an audiobook? If not, would you consider doing it?