
Why and How to Teach Listening

— Fox Valley Literacy —

Overview

Listening challenges for ELL students

Listening sub-skills

Lesson plan outline

Sample lesson plan

Q&A

Tefl.org

Skills Distribution

45% of our time communicating is listening.

30% speaking

16% reading

9% writing

Introductions

Your name

The most difficult thing about teaching listening

What's the difference between reading/listening and writing/speaking?

Reading and listening = receptive skills

Writing and speaking = productive skills

What are some of the challenges ELL students face when listening?

- Accents
- Speed
- Colloquial language/idioms/slang
- Get left behind while trying to figure out what a previous word meant
- Homophones and sound differentiation (New/Knew)
- Register
- Less thinking time
- Pronunciation

Listening sub-skills

Prediction (what am I going to hear?)

Listening for gist/context

Listening for detail

Listening for signposts

Others

Predicting

How do you choose what to listen to when you choose a podcast?

Pictures, headlines, titles

To help students predict, give a picture that is linked to the audio you will listen to.

- Have students predict what will be in the audio.
- What words/phrases do you expect to hear in a clip about that?

After listening: Were your predictions correct?

Predicting - Connection to real world

Your student has to go to the doctor.

Ask:

- What questions do you think the receptionist will ask you?
- What questions do you think the doctor will ask you?
- What vocabulary terms do you think you will hear?
- What kind of information do you think they will tell you?

Listening for gist/context

Try to understand overall idea

How do you, yourself, listen for gist?

- Vocabulary, tone, formality

Before listening, give students questions such as:

- Which is the best summary of the clip?
- What is the topic?
- Are the speakers happy?

After: Ask students why, what tell us?

Listening for details

More traditional listening activity

Listening for specific words, numbers, times, etc.

When do we listen this way? (For a specific piece of information)

Always after gist

Activities:

- Ask who/why/when/how many
- Fill in the blank activity
- True or false
- Matching

Listening for signposts/signal language

For higher levels

Important for academic purposes and vocational purposes

Listen to a talk

Activities:

- Have students write down phrases to show movement of topic
 - For example...moving on to...firstly..in conclusion
- Give list; have students put them in order
- Use them in their own speaking activity

Simple listening lesson outline

Show a picture or a headline

- What do you think is happening?

Pre-teach vocabulary

Show title of the clip

- What do you expect to hear?

Gist question → play clip 1+ times

Detail question → play clip 1+ times

Speaking or writing activity

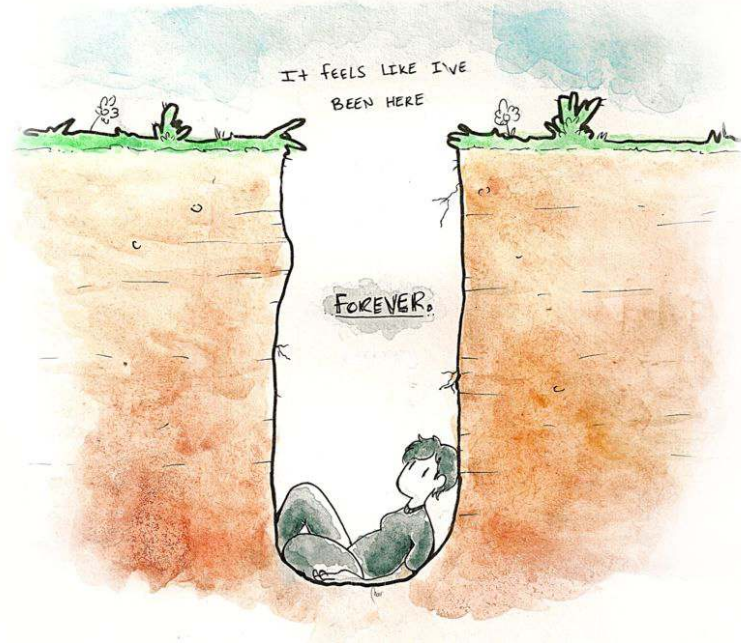
Sample lesson



Stuck in a rut

"I used to be so creative, but lately I don't have any ideas. I feel stuck in a rut."

Definition: to feel stuck doing the same things all the time even though you want a change.



Stuck in a rut - comprehension check

If you are 'stuck in a rut,' do you feel inspired?

Do you feel bored?

Tell me about a time when you felt stuck in a rut.

Flying by

Literal: The plane flew by the people on the boat.

Figurative: It feels like the summer just started, but it's already almost fall. The summer flew by!

Definition: The feeling of time or an activity passing very quickly



Flying by - comprehension check

Maria hates math, and she feels like the math class will never end. Does Maria feel like the math class is flying by?

Antonio doesn't get to see his friends very often. When they do, they have so much fun together. He feels like the time is too short. Does his time with his friends fly by?

When do you feel like time flies?

Try Something New for 30 Days

What do you think this story might be about?

What kinds of activities do you think we might hear about?

How do you think the person in the story is feeling?

What do you think might have motivated the person to tell this story?

Listening for gist (main topic or idea)

Which is the best summary of the video?

1. The speaker tried something new for 30 days and suffered a lot. He doesn't think doing this is a good idea.
2. The speaker tried something new for 30 days, and it made his life better. He encourages others to try it too.

Listening for gist

What is the video about?

Does the speaker feel happy with his experiment?



03:10

Courtesy: [The Economist](#)

Were your predictions correct?

Listening for detail

What new activities does Matt try for 30 days?

Check all that apply:

- biking to work
- climbing and hiking
- listing things he's grateful for
- writing a novel
- giving up sugar
- random acts of kindness
- take one picture every day

Listening for detail

True or false?

Matt thinks 30 days is the right amount of time to add or subtract a habit from your life.

Matt felt less confident because of his 30 day challenge.

Matt believes you can do anything for 30 days.

Matt thinks his novel will be very popular and successful.

Listening for signposts/signal language

Which words or phrases does Matt use to connect one idea to the next or to move to a new idea or example?

- The first thing...
- Even last year...
- I also...
- It turns out...
- Have you ever wanted to...?
- So here's one last thing...
- In fact...
- So...

Writing Activity

Write a summary of Matt's experience. Include:

- Why he wanted to try this challenge
- A sentence summarizing the challenge
- 3 activities he tried
- 2 things he learned or ways that his life changed
- What his advice is for others

Use at least 3 of our vocabulary words (provide list)

Use at least 3 of the signposts (provide list)

Speaking activity

Pick one thing you'd like to try for 30 days. Tell us about it.

- What is it?
- Why do you want to try this?
- What would be most difficult about it?
- What would make taking on this challenge easier?
- What would be most rewarding or exciting about it?

What are your favorite resources for teaching listening?

[Storycorps.org](https://www.storycorps.org)

learningenglish.voanews.com

[esl-lab.com](https://www.esl-lab.com)

newsforyouonline.com - access code: B1AAB8

Questions or Comments?