

How to Listen Better

*"The classroom is the place to learn, and the classroom is the place to listen."
- William H. Armstrong*

Listening is one of the most important skills you can develop to do better in school. It is the second most difficult skill. Reading is the most difficult.

- Form a good habit – good listening in class!
- Concentrate on what is going on in class – do not daydream.
- You can not listen if you are talking!
- **Before class** – think about what the class is going to be about
- What were the main points covered in the last class
- Review what your assignment was for the class



During class – relate what you have already learned to what is being taught.

- Did your homework have anything to do with the subject being taught during this class?
- Did your reading have anything to do with the subject?
- Does your general knowledge provide any information about the subject being taught?
- What comes to mind during the instruction?
- Concentrate on the subject being taught.
- Take notes on the main parts.

After class – review your notes and think about what was covered in class.

- Some people like to rewrite their notes
- Some people like to underline and **highlight** important ideas and vocabulary
- If you have a choice, try to sit near the front of the class – you can usually listen better if you are in the front.

Learning to Listen – more details

- Good listening means you are paying attention
- Try to hear what is said, not what you want to hear
- Think “around” the topic and “between the lines”
- Relate it to what you already know
- What is the main point?

- What is likely to be on the test?
- What is the teacher going to say next?
- Listen carefully to what the teacher says about an assignment and write it down in your assignment notebook right away.
- Listen for these essential phrases from the teacher: “This is important...”, “It is essential that you know this...”, and “You will need to know this for the test...”