

**Tips on Listening**

***"We were given two ears but only one mouth, because listening is twice as hard as talking."***

**# Pre-listening tips:**

* **Define your purpose:**

If you start by listening with a goal in mind, the listening task may be easier. Before listening to something, ask yourself, "What do I need to learn? The general gist or some specific information?"

If getting the general gist is your goal, focus on the ideas which seem to be repeated most often, most loudly, and at the beginning and end of a speech segment. (Main ideas generally appear there.)

If your goal is to obtain specific information, listen for "trigger words" and consider what the speaker is likely to say just before that information appears. For example, if you want to buy a car, words such as "price", "cost", or "dollars" signal some key information will occur – or has just occurred.

* **Acquire Some Background Information**:

Getting a basic knowledge about topics before they are discussed generally makes listening easier. Because once you have the basic concepts down, detailed information is easier to listen for.
* **Predict, Then Monitor**:

Often it's good to imagine what those you'll listen to will say before you hear them. If you predict the key points of a speech segment before it happens, you'll have less new information to listen for. Most conversations and speeches follow a fairly predictable pattern. When listening, try to monitor what's being said and see how closely it matches your predictions. Remember just the parts that differ from your guesses – the other parts you know already.

**# Tips while listening:**

* Accept the fact that you are **not** going to understand everything and that mind blockage is OK. You will overcome those problems by practice.
* Stay relaxed when you do not understand - even if you continue to not understand for a long time.
* Listen for the gist or the general idea of the conversation. Don't concentrate on details until you have understood the main ideas.
* Do **not** translate into your native language because when you do that, you are taking your attention away from the speaker and concentrating on the translation process taking place in your brain.

The most important thing to improve your listening skills is to listen on a regular basis. That means you have to find listening resources. This is where the Internet really comes in handy as a tool for English students.

Have FUN and GOOD LUCK !!