



Activating Listening Skills

- Discuss our own listening skills;
- Research how to listen more actively;
- Evaluate materials to use in class;
- Try an online listening tool to learn songs.



Talk by **Julian Treasure: 5 Ways to Listen Better**

http://www.ted.com/talks/julian_treasure_5_ways_to_listen_better.html

A: Listen to the talk by Julian Treasure on ways to improve our listening skills and answer the following questions in your group:

True or False? The speaker says that...

- (1) We spend 40% of our time listening. **False = 60%**
- (2) We retain 80% of what we hear. **False= 25%**
- (3) Recognising patterns helps us to recognise signals in a lot of noise.
True = Our names are recognisable signals, even in a noisy party we will hear our name.
- (4) Continuous background noises become more distracting with time.

False = less distracting we cease to hear.

(5) Beliefs, filter what a person pays attention to.

True = Culture, Religion, Race, Gender, Age, attitudes, language, beliefs

(6) The speaker listens to his wife every day as if for the first time.

False = it was a great intention

(7) Time is recognisable because of the types of sounds it contains.

True = Sonority is time and meaning (sound always has time embedded in it)

(8) Life in the 21st century demands accurate and careful listening.

True but we are losing our listening.

(9) Subtlety and understatement are harder for us to pay attention to.

True = the world is very noisy now, the media is screaming at us.

(10) Conscious listening leads to greater intolerance.

False = we need listening skills more than ever.

B: The speaker suggests five ways we can improve our listening make notes about each idea:

Silence: x 3 minutes a day

Mixer: recognise how many channels of sound in your present environment

Savouring: enjoying everyday sounds (mundane = boring) the coffee grinder/tumble dryer

Listening Positions: active/passive reductive/expansive critical/empathetic

RASA:

Receive

Appreciate

Summarise

Ask

Question:

Which materials would work with your students?

How can you help them to become more active listeners?

TASK – Brainstorm Listening activities we could create on the theme of 'Ireland'

Activity 1

Show photos of interesting places in Ireland.

Show a video about wool production.

Listen to songs by Irish bands.

1. Divide them into groups by level in pairs.
2. Ask them to listen to two songs and compare them.
3. They must create a way to represent their results.
4. They present their results to the class.

Activity 2

1. Brainstorm vocabulary about Ireland (school in Ireland)
2. Next ask them to describe what they see in a picture (uniform/actions)
3. Listen to a pupil describe his/her day.
4. Answer multiple choice Qs.
5. Complete sentences by matching.
6. Compare and contrast their routines with Irish students.

Activity 3

1. Show a photo of a group of Teachers who visited Ireland.
2. Point to the teacher.

3. Tell a story about the group and Ireland in graded language A2/B1.
4. Emphasize that the *teachers* became *students*.
5. Ask them to listen very carefully and take notes.
6. After they will be asked questions.
7. Introduce songs + lyrics training.
8. Competitive game.
9. Halloween cartoon or video + qs.
10. Final activity memory game, what did the teachers tell you?
11. Ask them what new things did they discover about Ireland.