

# Strategies to Become a Better Listener

## 1. Distinguish separate words from a blur of sounds.

- Increase your exposure to the language.
- Have a friend say a sentence slowly, then quickly.
- Visualize the words you hear.

## 2. Distinguish one sound from another (like the vowels in sit and seat).

- Practice aloud.
- Practice with a friend.

## 3. Comprehend the message without understanding every word.

- Listen for key words.
- Practice “skim listening.”
- Play the game of probabilities, inference, and educated guessing.
- Try to predict what the speaker will say.
- Listen for words that are borrowed from English.

## 4. Understand the entire message.

- Put yourself in a frame of mind to understand the target language.
- Accept some ambiguity in what you hear, and practice listening.

## 5. Decipher fast speech.

- Reduce your expectations.
- Try to stay in the conversation.
- Ask questions.

## 6. Figure out the intention of the speakers.

- Use tone of voice to guess the meaning or intention of what was said.
- Make yourself aware of nonverbal cues.
- Understand the use of stress.
- Understand intonations.

## 7. Listen to interactions between two or more people.

## 8. Recognize different types of speech according to the speaker or setting.