

Improving study skills

Listening Skills

Overcoming barriers to listening

What is active listening?

What tactics can be employed to help stay focused?

Study Skills – Improve Listening (group work)

Listening skills game 1:

Topic	Mentor activity	Student activity
Listening – what does this mean	Facilitate a discussion. Listening is all about hearing correctly. Incorrect emphasis can ruin understanding. How to check understanding.	Discussion – what impact does emphasising words or phrases have on understanding. How do we decipher unusual or technical words.
Listening activities	Introduce a game of Chinese whispers. Explain the rules, pass on a 2-sentence message around the students. Encourage students to make notes.	Students to consider what they have heard, repeat the message as they have heard it, pass on. When message is passed on, students to record what they have heard.
Discuss outcomes – what were the barriers to good listening?	Ask students to focus on their own barriers to hearing, translating and passing on information. Allow 10 minutes for student discussions.	Students work in pairs or small groups to identify things that have gone wrong and the consequences

Listening skills game 2

Paper folding

Give everyone a sheet of paper, tell everyone to close their eyes and follow your instructions. Then give step by step instructions about what to do with the piece of paper. For example, fold it in half, fold the lower left corner over the upper right corner, turn it 90° to the left, fold it again top to bottom, rip a small piece etc. After a number of different instructions, students can open their eyes and look at each others papers. As they have all received the same instructions you would think that everyone would have the same result.