

Attention and Listening // Year 10+

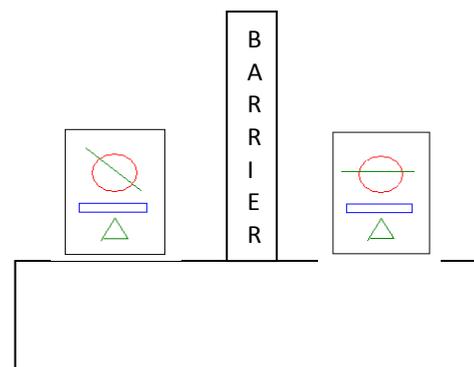
Real situations

Students may feel that they are too old for specific activities to target attention and listening but you can make good use of real situations e.g. asking them to take messages.

Discuss with students the 'self-help' strategies they can use to support their attention and listening, and encourage them to put these strategies into practise.

Barrier Games

Students work in pairs back-to-back or with a screen in between them. One student draws a picture or collection of shapes and then explains how to draw this to their partner. At the end compare pictures to see how successful they were. This is a good activity for practising repair strategies – encourage the student to ask for information to be repeated or clarify what has been said.



Missing information

Tell the student you are about to give them an instruction, but you will deliberately miss out a key piece of information. They must identify what is missing and ask for it specifically, e.g. 'meet me at the library tomorrow', then wait and see if the student asks 'what time?'

Once they are good at identifying the missing information with a prompt beforehand, stop warning them that you may not give them complete information – see if they still ask a question to clarify.

Ask, Listen, Check technique

This technique prompts students to listen closely to conversations, and provides a structure for continuing the conversation. The student asks a question and listens to the answer. They then ask a further question to clarify the answer/seek more information

e.g. 'Have you been on holiday this year?'

'Yes, I went to Italy'

'Had you been there before?'

Practise using this technique for a range of conversation topics in paired or small group sessions, before asking them to trial it in everyday conversations.