

Attention and Listening // Age 11-14

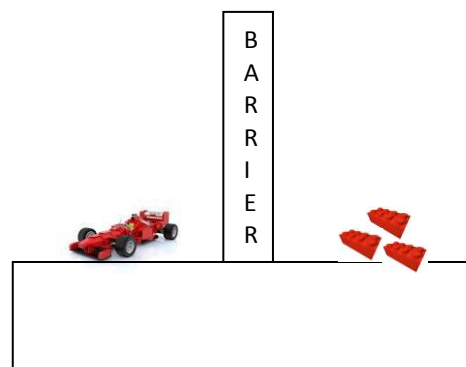
Recognising good and poor listening

Using DVD clips of soap operas/interviews, discuss good and poor listening skills in others. Refer to the 'active listening skills' available on the age 7-9 Attention and Listening handout.



Barrier Games

This is a paired activity you can do with your young person. One person draws a picture or collection of shapes and 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 your young person to ask for information to be repeated or clarify what has been said. You can also play this game using simple Lego models.



Missing information

Tell your young person 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 young person 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 young people to listen closely to conversations, and provides a structure for continuing the conversation. The young person 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 at home, before asking them to trial it in everyday conversations.