



Science • Social Studies • Math • ELA • ELD

Listen Like an Expert

How to teach listening in any subject, with ready-to-print tools for every learner in your classroom

Inside this kit:

- A 15-minute listening routine you can run every week
- One listening organizer with three levels
- “Listen like a...” cards for scientists, historians, mathematicians, and authors
- Talk-move cards and a student self-check bookmark
- Three stories to try it with

Free printable kit • Grades 2–12

Why teach listening?

Students spend much of the school day listening, but listening is rarely taught on purpose. That's a missed opportunity. Once students can decode, how well they read depends heavily on how well they understand spoken language. And for most of school, students can understand harder ideas by ear than on the page.

Decoding

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Language Comprehension

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Reading Comprehension

The Simple View of Reading (Gough & Tunmer, 1986). Researchers measured language comprehension by having students listen.

The 15-minute listening routine

Minutes	Step	What students do
0-3	Hook	Answer one question about the topic; preview 3 key words with pictures
3-6	First listen	Listen for the gist; tell a partner in one sentence
6-9	Second listen	Fill in 3 cloze sentences or answer the posted questions
9-12	Talk	Turn and talk on an opinion question; partner restates
12-15	Quick write	One claim, one detail from the story

How to use this kit

- 1 Pick a story** that connects to what you're teaching. Short interviews and reported stories work best, because students hear experts reason out loud.
- 2 Hand out the organizer at the level your students need.** With small group instruction, everyone can work on the same story with different supports.
- 3 Put a "Listen like a..." card on the board** for your subject, and use its questions for the talk and quick-write steps.

For multilingual learners: Welcome the home language for brainstorming and notes. Slow the audio down, offer the transcript, and point out cognates. Let students rehearse with a partner before sharing with the whole class.

Listen & Notice



Name _____

Date _____

Story title _____

1 BEFORE YOU LISTEN

What do you think this story is about? Try “I see ____” (write, draw, or use your home language)

Key words

Word	Picture	In my language

2 WHILE YOU LISTEN

I hear the word _____.

I hear about _____.

Draw one thing from the story.

3 AFTER YOU LISTEN

The story is about _____.

I learned _____.

I like / don't like _____ because _____.

Listen & Note



Name _____

Date _____

Story title _____

1 BEFORE YOU LISTEN

What do I already know about this topic?

Key words in my own words

Word	What it means

The question I'm listening for: _____

2 WHILE YOU LISTEN

First listen: This story is mostly about _____.

Second listen: Three details

Something that surprised me: _____

3 AFTER YOU LISTEN

The main idea is _____.

A question I still have: _____

Quick write: My claim is _____. One detail from the story that supports it is _____.

Listen Like an Expert



Name _____ Date _____ Story title _____

1 BEFORE YOU LISTEN

Who is speaking? What makes them an expert?

What do I think they'll claim? _____

What do I already know, and where did I learn it? _____

2 WHILE YOU LISTEN

The speaker's claim: _____

The evidence they give:

Words that show how sure they are ("we know," "the data suggest," "it's possible that"):

3 AFTER YOU LISTEN

How strong is the evidence? Why?

What might change the speaker's mind? _____

Who else should we hear from before we decide? _____

Write it up

Claim

Evidence

Reasoning

Listen like an expert

Every field listens for different things. Pick the card for your class.



LISTEN LIKE A Scientist

- ? What did they observe or measure?
- ? What's the claim, and what's the evidence?
- ? What are they still unsure about?

SAY IT

"The evidence shows ____, so ____."
"One thing they don't know yet is ____."



LISTEN LIKE A Historian

- ? Who is speaking, and when?
- ? What is their point of view, and why might they see it that way?
- ? What else was happening at the time?

SAY IT

"From ____'s point of view, ____."
"This makes more sense when we know ____."



LISTEN LIKE A Mathematician

- ? What problem were they trying to solve?
- ? What did they count, measure, or compare?
- ? What assumptions did they make?

SAY IT

"They used ____ to figure out ____."
"This only works if ____."



LISTEN LIKE AN Author

- ? What choices did the storyteller make?
- ? Why tell the story this way?
- ? What bigger idea or theme does it connect to?

SAY IT

"The author chose ____ to show ____."
"This connects to ____ because ____."

Talk moves



Use any language to plan. Practice in English with a partner.

Turn and talk

"I think ___ because ___."

Partner restate

"My partner said ___."

"Did I get that right?"

Find the gist

"This story is about _____. The most important thing it says is _____."

Agree or disagree

"I agree with ___ because ____." "I see it differently because ____."

Ask a follow-up

"Can you say more about _____?"

"How do you know?"

How I listen

- 1 Predict**
What do I think I'll hear?
- 2 Check**
Am I following? Was my guess right?
- 3 Fix**
Where did I get lost?
Replay, reread, or ask.
- 4 Reflect**
What helped me understand today?



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Try it with a story

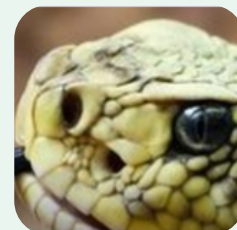
This kit works with any LingoLift lesson. It works best with stories where real experts think out loud.

SCIENCE

The Sensory World of Animals

Bees see a hidden bull's-eye on sunflowers, and octopuses nurse a sore arm. Students imagine the world through another creature's sense.

Pair with: Listen like a scientist



SOCIAL STUDIES

Every Style of French Fry Cut We Could Find

From Belgian fishermen to Jefferson's curly fries to Kenya's masala chips, it's world history and geography served one fry at a time.

Pair with: Listen like a historian



ELA

Young Adult Dystopia

Real teens at a library book club debate clones and ethics while a psychologist explains why dystopia is perfect for the adolescent brain.

Pair with: Listen like an author



Stories that spark conversation

LingoLift has short stories from public radio and educational media across science, social studies, math, and ELA. Browse 3,000+ lessons including collections to support newcomers, your striving readers, and your on-level students.

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