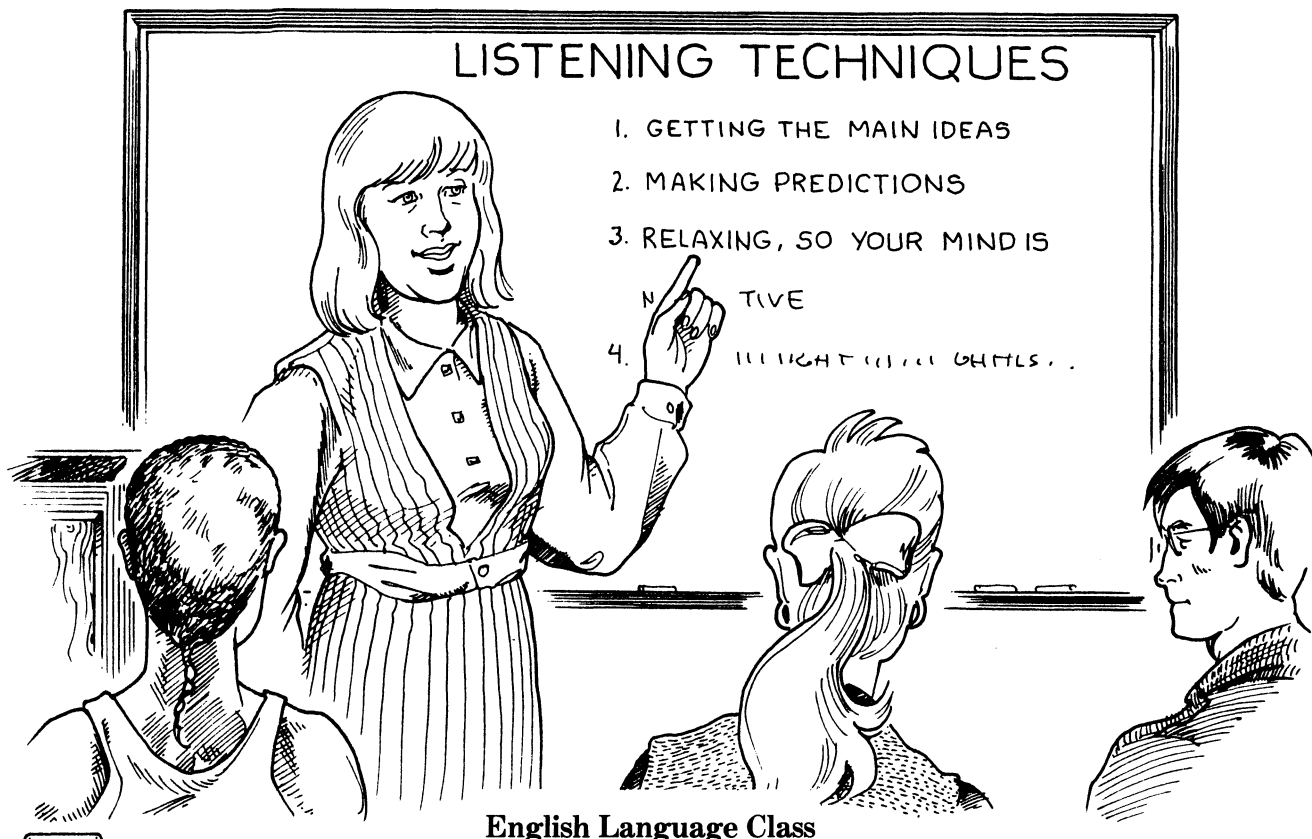


Recognizing Main Ideas and Understanding Listening Techniques

- A.** Prepare to listen by answering these questions about the picture: Who are the people? What is the speaker probably discussing?



English Language Class



- B.** An English instructor is going to answer the question "Do you have any advice on how we can improve our listening comprehension?" Listen to the portion of the language class and then cross out the letter of the *one* answer to each question that is not correct. (You can listen again to check your answers.)

1. The instructor recommends that students improve their listening comprehension by _____.
 - a. watching T.V.
 - b. listening to the radio
 - ☒ c. avoiding movies that are comedies
2. One advantage of learning language from the media is that the media presents _____.
 - a. only formal language without casual expressions or idioms
 - b. a variety of accents
 - c. a range of language, from formal to casual
3. Some ways to improve your listening comprehension and get information on various topics are to _____.
 - a. tune in to different kinds of programs
 - b. record a program and listen to it several times
 - c. turn off the set when there are commercials
4. Some listening techniques that may help you to understand better are _____.
 - a. trying to get the main ideas
 - b. relaxing so that your mind doesn't have to be active
 - c. making predictions about what is going to happen

Making Inferences and Recognizing Media Forms

When you listen to conversations, reports, lectures, and the like, you will be told some facts directly but you may have to infer other information by figuring it out from the clues. To make inferences, you might pay attention to the situation, the speakers' feelings, the purpose of the conversation, some key words, etc.



C.

Listen to Programs 1-5, which are excerpts from radio and T.V. shows. Match them with these phrases describing kinds of programs by writing the correct number(1-5) on each line.

- _____ a news magazine about current issues
- _____ a lecture on financial matters
- _____ a televised court case
- _____ a soap opera about a hospital
- 1 _____ a radio psychologist show



D.

Listen to Programs 1-5 again. From the information you can infer, circle the letter of the correct statement about each one. (You can listen again to check your answers.)

1. **a.** The talk-show host is going to give advice to a caller with a personal problem.
b. The caller is asking a doctor for recommendations about a chest problem.
2. **a.** Mr. Kramer is going to leave the hospital because his x-rays have shown that there's nothing really wrong with him.
b. One of the characters, a doctor, might get into trouble in the next scene.
3. **a.** In this show, Omar and Nadia Ghulam have had to leave their home because there was no security.
b. The courtroom case the viewers are going to see is about a \$650 dispute between a landlord and tenants.
4. **a.** This program is going to feature controversial technological issues.
b. Dianne Slater believes that universities should not be investigated if they are innovative.
5. **a.** The lecturer is going to offer advice to people who want to invest some money.
b. The best strategy for getting money is to work at relatively safe jobs.



TAPESCRIPT

INTRODUCTION

■ p. 2, Exercise B

English Language Class

The question was “Do I have any advice on how you can improve your listening comprehension?” Of course you’ll get better at both understanding and speaking if you have many conversations with people in English. But to practice on your own, one method I recommend is using the media for language learning. Most people spend a lot of time watching T.V. or listening to the radio anyway, and you can improve your English if you listen carefully. There are so many different kinds of programs to tune in to that you are sure to hear a variety of accents, a range of language from formal to very casual, and common useful expressions—including everyday idioms. Also, if you watch or listen to the same material several times—a movie, a news broadcast, or even a commercial, for example—you can improve your listening comprehension through repeated practice. You might even want to record a program so you can listen to it at your own pace. Each time you hear the same or similar material about a topic, you will understand more.

Even when you’re watching or listening to the media for relaxation and enjoyment, you can use certain techniques to improve your comprehension. To begin with, you should always listen for main ideas, not stopping to worry about words or sentences that you don’t understand at first. Second, you can keep your mind active by making predictions—guesses about what is going to happen next. There are many specific listening skills that we’ll be practicing in this course, such as understanding the order of events, judging the relevance of evidence, recognizing generalizations and illustrations, and the like.

■ p. 3, Exercise C

Program 1

Announcer: And now... radio’s favorite psychologist, Dr. Zev Wonderer.

Zev: Hello. You’re on KSOS Talk Radio. Please tell us your first name and your age.

Abdo: My name is Abdo, and I’m thirty-three years old. And I’m calling because there’s

something that I really want to get off my chest.

Program 2

Dr. Phillips: After I examined his x-rays closely, I readmitted Mr. Kramer to the hospital.

Nurse Schmidt: Not Carl “the hypochondriac” Kramer? We see him at least twice a month, and there’s never really anything wrong with him. Besides, isn’t he Dr. Manchetti’s patient?

Dr. Phillips: I’m afraid Marc Manchetti has made a grave mistake this time.

Program 3

Announcer: Now entering the courtroom are the plaintiffs, Omar and Nadia Ghulam. They claim to have left a \$650 security deposit with their former landlord when they moved into their rented home. Now the landlord is refusing to return the money.

Program 4

Announcer: On today’s program, our investigative reporters will be looking at some technological innovations that are sure to affect our lives in the future. Dianne Slater has our first report—from the Medical Center at University Hospital.

Program 5

Announcer: What would be some of the basic strategies, then, for getting my money to work for me?

Dr. Adams: Basically, there are two kinds of investments—those that are relatively safe but that offer a low return on your money and those that promise high profits but that involve considerable speculation.

CHAPTER 1 / FAMILIES

PART ONE / GOOD LISTENING

■ p. 6, Exercise C

KSOS Radio Talk Show, Conversation 1

Announcer: This is KSOS. And now... radio’s favorite psychologist, Dr. Zev Wonderer.