

Being a good listener

Ask students how they feel if they're talking to someone (perhaps on the phone), and the listener is silent. Point out the need for the listener to show they're listening and understand. Elicit ways of doing that – both body language (eg smiling, nodding, eye contact) and verbal language (Mhm, Right, asking relevant questions, commenting, etc).

Select a fairly fluent and confident student to talk to the class about a familiar topic, eg their family, how they spend their spare time, their home. While they're talking, respond to show you're listening and interested, using phrases such as:

- ▶ That's true.
- ▶ Right.
- ▶ Absolutely.
- ▶ I suppose so.
- ▶ Really?
- ▶ Did you?
- ▶ Uhuh.
- ▶ Mm.

and so on. The other students should write down what you (the teacher) say. Write the words and phrases on the board. Say each one in a friendly, supportive way, getting the class to imitate you.

This worksheet will help you with:

- ▶ conversation in all situations, including phone calls
- ▶ GESE Grade 7, interactive and conversation phases
- ▶ ISE I, conversation task

Activity 1

Showing that you're listening

In pairs, take turns to speak and listen for a minute or two. When you speak, choose a topic you're familiar with.

Here are some suggestions:

- ▶ Your family
- ▶ How you spend your spare time
- ▶ Your home
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Your early memories

When you listen, show that you're listening and that you understand. Use the words and phrases on the board.

Activity 2

Not showing that you're listening

Again, take turns to talk about a different topic. This time, the listener shouldn't say anything or look at the speaker.

Ask them how they felt when the listener didn't show any interest.

For Activity 3, talk for 2-3 minutes about a topic that might interest the students, eg:

- ▶ what it's like being a teacher
- ▶ how you studied English
- ▶ advice to the students on improving their English

Activity 3

Showing that you're listening

Listen to your teacher speaking, and show that you're listening and that you understand.



Star test-taker activity



Here are four sentences about listening in conversation. Draw a star by the three things you should do, and draw a line through the one thing you shouldn't do.

Good listeners:

- say things to show they understand and are interested. *
- ~~listen in silence.~~
- look at the speaker most of the time. *
- smile to show they understand and are interested. *