Being a good listener

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.

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.