

How well do you listen?

This activity will give students the opportunity to develop their interactive listening skills in authentic conversation by encouraging students to pay attention to what the other speaker is saying and to react and interact appropriately.

Grade: GESE Grades 7-9 (CEFR B2)

Time: 30 minutes

Exam Task Focus:

- ▶ To show understanding by responding appropriately to what you hear
- ▶ To be prepared to ask and answer questions
- ▶ To share responsibility for the maintenance of the interaction

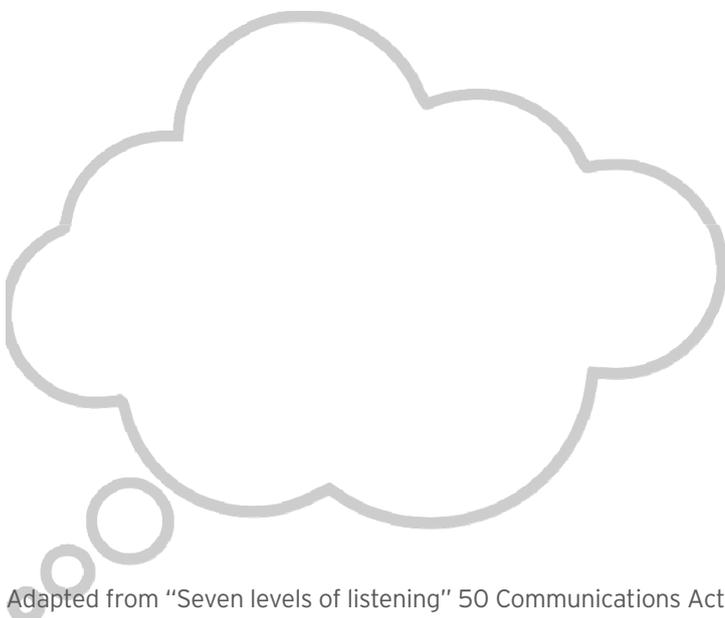
Resources:

- ▶ Handout – Levels of listening gauge
- ▶ Exam Information Booklet

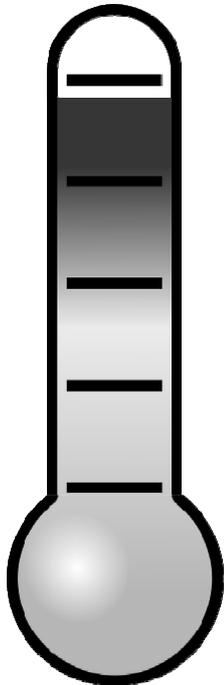


Procedure

1. Divide the class into groups of 4: students A, B, C and D.
2. Tell the students that they are going to do an activity that will demonstrate how well they listen to each other.
3. Give the handout **Levels of Listening Gauge** to students A and B in each group and ask them to read through the levels of listening. Make sure students understand the different levels.
4. Choose a topic that the students are familiar with (eg this can be a topic they've recently engaged with in class, or one of the GESE subject areas for conversation) and ask students C & D to discuss the topic or subject area for about 2–3 minutes.
5. Tell student A only to concentrate on student C and Student B to concentrate only on Student D. While students C and D are talking, students A and B will rate their performance using the **Levels of Listening Gauge**.
6. Students A and B may also add notes about students C and D's performance to explain why they gave the rating they did.
7. After 2–3 minutes, stop the conversation, and students A and B will provide feedback to their peers. Where possible, they can also offer suggestions on ways to improve.
8. Repeat the process making sure students swap roles so that they all have a chance to speak and be rated.



Levels of Listening Gauge



6 _____

5 _____

4 _____

3 _____

2 _____

1 _____

0 _____

Key:

- 0 – Not listening:** Not paying attention to or ignoring the other person's communications.
- 1 – Pretend listening:** Acting like or giving the impression that you are paying attention to another person's communications, but in actuality not really paying attention to that individual.
- 2 – Partially listening:** Only focusing on part of the other person's communication or only giving it your divided attention.
- 3 – Focused listening:** Giving the other person your undivided attention to his or her communication.
- 4 – Interpretive listening:** Going beyond just paying attention but really trying to understand what the other person is communicating.
- 5 – Interactive listening:** Being involved in the communications by asking clarifying questions or acknowledging understanding of the communication.
- 6 – Engaged listening:** Being fully engaged in communications involves listening to the other person's views, feelings, interpretations, values, etc, concerning the communication and sharing yours as well with the other person(s). In engaged listening, both parties are given the opportunity to fully express their views, feelings, and ideas.