

### Activities to develop listening and attention skills

1. **Listening to sounds on CD** – there are commercial materials available, or you can make your own. Ask the pupils to listen to a sound and do a specific activity.
2. **Sound bingo** – listening to sounds on CD and covering the correct picture.
3. **Sound walk** – listening for different sounds they hear on a walk, then using these to paint a picture or compose a group poem.
4. **Simon says** – listen carefully for specific instructions and then do the actions.
5. **Share reading** – using big books to help focus attention on the visual cues.
6. **Circle-time activities** – when one child is speaking they could hold a listening shell, which means that everyone else (including the adults) must listen to what they say.
7. **Story CDs** – listening-centre activities can include listening to story CDs interspersed with activities related to the text.
8. **Who am I?** – miming activities can be related to a classroom topic (story characters, occupations, people in the school).
9. **Parachute activities** – pupils need to listen carefully to the instructions in order to be part of a team activity.
10. **Messages** – ask the pupils to recall simple messages.
11. **Chinese whispers** – pass an action message round the circle. The last pupil to receive the message has to perform the action.
12. **Listen and colour** – colour a picture by listening to the instructions.
13. **Listen and draw** – draw a picture by listening to the instructions (there are some published materials for this).
14. **Twenty questions** – allow the pupils twenty questions to discover the identity of a hidden object related to a class project. Pupils need to listen carefully to make deductions.
15. **Hot-seating** – one pupil chooses to be a particular story character and sits in the 'hot seat'. The other pupils ask questions to discover the identity of the character. This works well for all ages, from Little Red Riding Hood to Romeo.

<http://www.teachingexpertise.com/articles/activities-to-develop-and-improve-listening-skills-and-attention-1110>

## Games to Improve Listening Skills for Kids

### Activities and Games for the Youngest

- Everyone knows reading to your child daily is important, so make it a game like Shout Out. Using a book with a repetitive word, have the child "shout out" whenever they hear the designated word. One non-reading game to try is Knock, Knock. Place the child in a chair facing away from you and gather their favorite stuffed animals. Using funny voices, have each "animal" knock, then describe itself until the child can guess which animal is knocking. The Pattern Game is another one to try. Clap your hands in a simple pattern/rhythm, and have the child repeat it. Continue with more complicated patterns/rhythms. (You can even introduce thigh claps or head taps to make the game harder as the child gets better at it.)

### Games for Older Children

- Older children can try games like Then, which requires two to play. The first child makes a statement that ends in a "then." The next child adds a statement that finishes the sentence: First child: "The boy throws the ball, then..." Second child: "...the ball rolls down the hill." A tricky one for groups is Stump the Leader. One child is picked out to be the leader. The other children take turns asking the leader questions while picking a word that can't be used. For example, "How old are? You can't say 10" so the leader can say "I'll be 11 on my birthday." A fun game for kids of all ages is "Who's talking now?" Pick one of the children's favorite television shows. Let them watch a little bit then have them close their eyes. At random points say "Now" and let them tell you who was talking. The kids never notice they are learning to listen.

Listening is an important skill for children to learn. Simple can let them work on those skills with the bonus of getting them away from the television and video games. The skills learned young will follow them to adulthood.

Read more: [Games to Improve Listening Skills for Kids | eHow.com](http://www.ehow.com/way_5242194_games-improve-listening-skills-kids.html#ixzz1vuRlmA7X)  
[http://www.ehow.com/way\\_5242194\\_games-improve-listening-skills-kids.html#ixzz1vuRlmA7X](http://www.ehow.com/way_5242194_games-improve-listening-skills-kids.html#ixzz1vuRlmA7X)

## Listening Skills Activities for Adults

### 1. Describe a Process

- In the business world, the ability to describe to another person how to perform a task is an important but difficult skill. To demonstrate the difficulty and provide employees and often managers or supervisors with practice in this area, training exercises are often used. One commonly used exercise involves two individuals seated in chairs back to back. One describes to the other the arrangement of a grouping of geometric shapes in a diagram he has been given. The other person then tries to draw, based on the description, the diagram being described. After a certain amount of time, the two discuss how well they did and how they might have improved the process.

### Listen and Repeat

- One of the challenges of listening for most people is that, while they're listening, they're also having their own internal dialogues and, consequently, missing the content of what they are hearing. An activity that can help adults do a better job of this involves listening to a message and then repeating back to the person what the intent of the message was. Messages become progressively more complex as the exercise continues. Then a discussion is held to review the process, the benefits of repeating back what is heard and ways in which this can occur without seeming too practiced or unnatural.
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### Take the Other Side

- When people hold a strong opinion, it can be particularly difficult to listen to--and hear--the opinions of another person with different viewpoints. An activity that can aid this process requires the individuals to share their view, listen to the viewpoint of the other person and then re-state their viewpoint from the other point of view. The exercise is not intended to get the individuals to change their perspectives but to gain a greater appreciation for viewpoints and positions of other people.

Read more: [Listening Skills Activities for Adults | eHow.com](http://www.ehow.com/list_6919216_listening-skills-activities-adults.html#ixzz1vuS3yiem)  
[http://www.ehow.com/list\\_6919216\\_listening-skills-activities-adults.html#ixzz1vuS3yiem](http://www.ehow.com/list_6919216_listening-skills-activities-adults.html#ixzz1vuS3yiem)

## Activities that improve listening skills

by [Trenna Sue Hiler](#)

<http://www.helium.com/items/1572002-activities-that-improve-listening-skills>

~ What is my body saying?

This is a form of charades and it teaches children about listening with their eyes and their ears to get the complete message. They [enjoy](#) it and it helps to make them more aware.

Display emotions with no words and have the children ask if you are happy, sad, confused, etc. It is important to make some of the [body language](#) tough enough that they don't understand. The trick is to sometimes say no, so the child learns to keep listening even if he doesn't have the answer right the first time.

Here are some ideas to get the game started.

\*confused

\*happy

\*lost

\*mad

\*sad

\*full

\*[hungry](#)

\*tired

\*mixed up

\*hurt

\*lonely

Mystery Bag

# Improving Listening Skills

[18 Comments](#)

Aug 11, 2011 | By Jake Lawson

## Listening Role-Play Activity

You and a friend can practice effective listening on one another. Practice with these suggested topics.

### Step 1

One partner takes a turn as speaker, the other as listener. For 5 minutes the speaker elaborates on one of the ten topics. The listener uses effective listening and makes appropriate responses back to the speaker.

### Step 2

After the 5-minute role play is completed, the speaker spends two minutes giving feedback to the listening partner on the effective listener skills used. Review Section II to help you give appropriate feedback.

### Step 3

After the first practice and feedback session, switch roles until all topics have been covered.

Practice Listening Topics:

How I feel about:

- \* My life today.
- \* Being raised in my family of origin.
- \* All the good things that have happened to me.
- \* My future.
- \* My decision to participate in a support group.
- \* My current personal problems.
- \* Learning to deal with my problems.
- \* Listening to other people's deepest concerns and feelings.
- \* Showing love to those closest to me.
- \* The fact that I influence my life, regardless of the events, with either positive or negative outcomes.

## Reasons to Improve Listening Skills

- \* To avoid saying the wrong thing, being tactless
- \* To dissipate strong feelings
- \* To learn to accept feelings (yours and others)
- \* To generate a feeling of caring
- \* To help people start listening to you
- \* To increase the other person's confidence in you
- \* To make the other person feel important and recognized
- \* To be sure you both are on the same wavelength
- \* To be sure you both are focused on the same topic
- \* To check that you are both are on target with one another

<http://www.livestrong.com/article/14657-improving-listening-skills/>