



GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO LISTEN FOR

Make listening purposeful. Attention leads to understanding.



THE IDEA

Unfocused listening is hard for everyone. EAL learners need a clear reason to listen.

When students know what to listen for, they listen differently — and learn more.

Purpose.

Attention.

Understanding.

Retention.



IN THE CLASSROOM

- Set a clear listening intention before audio.
- Use keywords, questions or a simple task.
- Keep it achievable. One or two things.
- Check understanding after listening.
- Use it in pairs, groups or whole class.
- Build up to note-taking and full comprehension.

THE 4 STEPS

1



SET THE INTENTION

Tell students what to listen for.

- Share the topic and context.
- Give a specific question or focus.
- Highlight key words or ideas.

Example: While you listen, find out...

- What is the main cause of the problem?
- What are three solutions mentioned?

2



LISTEN WITH FOCUS

Students listen with a purpose.

- Listen for the information, not every word.
- Tick, underline or make short notes.
- Encourage students to infer and connect.

Remind them: It's not about hearing everything. It's about finding what matters.

3



CHECK AND SHARE

Check understanding together.

- Students compare answers in pairs or groups.
- Discuss as a class and confirm key points.
- Clarify vocabulary or tricky parts.

Useful stems: "I heard that ..." "I think because ..." "Can you explain that part again?"

4



EXTEND AND APPLY

Go deeper with the listening.

- Ask follow-up questions or new tasks.
- Change the focus for a second listen.
- Move from listening to speaking or writing.

Try: Summarise it. Predict what happens next. Or teach it to someone else.



WHY IT WORKS

It reduces cognitive overload.
It improves comprehension and recall.
It builds confidence and active listening habits.



EAL UPGRADE

- Pre-teach key vocabulary and phrases.
- Use sentence frames for responses.
- Provide transcripts or glossaries.



TRY IT TOMORROW

- Pick a short audio or video.
- Set one clear question to listen for.
- Play it once.
- Check and discuss.



TEACHER LANGUAGE

"Listen for the answer to..."
"What did you hear about...?"
"Let's listen again."
"What's the main idea?"

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