

UNIT 2

Have you ever seen a dot, or *bullet point*, at the beginning of a sentence? These bullet points introduce a list of ideas or examples.

Look at the title and bullet points in the article. Make a guess. What are you going to learn about in this article? Read and see if you are right.

How to Be a Good Listener

Listening is an important skill, but for many students, it is the most difficult part of learning English. "People talk too fast!" says Marisol Ruiz, a student at Wilmont Community College. "When I don't understand a word, I feel discouraged and I stop listening."

There are actually two different kinds of listening. Each kind of listening has different strategies you can use to understand English.

Interactive listening is the first kind. In interactive listening, you speak to someone, and then you listen and respond to that person. Conversations and group discussions are examples of interactive listening.

Here are some strategies for improving your interactive listening skills.

- **Ask for help.** Say, "Please speak more slowly," or ask, "Excuse me. What did you say?"
- **Check the information.** If you think you haven't understood, repeat what you heard. Use your own words.
- **Make sure you're listening.** Don't think about what you're going to say next.

The second kind of listening is *noninteractive*. With noninteractive

listening, you listen, but you don't speak. Watching movies and listening to music are examples of noninteractive listening. "I have lived in the United States for two years, and for me, watching movies or listening to the news on the radio is very difficult," Ahmed Omran says. "I can't ask questions about the things that I don't understand."

The following strategies can help improve your noninteractive listening skills.

- **Use what you know.** Think about the subject and try to think of the words you will hear in advance. For example, when you watch TV, a weather reporter might use the words *rainy* or *sunny*. Listen for those words.
- **Just listen.** Concentrate on listening. Be an active listener. Don't eat lunch or do other things while you're listening.
- **Don't stop listening.** Even if you don't understand something, keep on listening. You can make guesses and listen to other important information.

If you do all these things, not only will you become a better listener, your speaking skills will improve, too!

UNIT 2

1 Check your understanding

Read the example and write the strategy.

Strategy	Example
1. <i>Use what you know.</i>	You listen to a TV commercial about a new restaurant and think about types of food.
2.	You turn off your computer and listen to the evening news.
3.	You say, "Please say that again."
4.	You keep listening when you don't understand every word.
5.	You ask, "Did you say to turn left or right at the corner?"

2 Build your vocabulary

- A** Read the vocabulary in the chart. Find these words in the article. Underline them.
- B** Use the context to decide the part of speech of each word – *noun* or *verb*. Write it in the chart.
- C** Circle the best definition to match the part of speech.

Vocabulary	Part of speech	Definition
1. part	<i>noun</i>	a. to separate b. a piece of something, not all of it
2. use		a. to make useful b. purpose
3. check		a. to look at something and decide if it is correct b. a printed form you can use instead of money to make payments from your bank account
4. help		a. to make it easier for someone to do something b. something that helps
5. watch		a. to look at something for a period of time b. a small clock that you wear on your wrist
6. guess		a. to give an answer that you think is right b. an answer that you think is right, but you're not sure

3 Think about it

- Listening, reading, writing, speaking – these are skills needed to learn a language. Which English skills are easy for you? Which skills are difficult? Number the skills from 1 (the easiest) to 4 (the most difficult).
- Think about the easiest English skill for you. Write three strategies to help other students with this skill.