

Listening strategies

Before you listen

- Think about the topic of the text you are going to listen to. What do you already know about it? What could possibly be the content of the text? Which words come to mind that you already know? Which words would you want to look up?
- If you have to do a task on the listening text, check whether you have understood the task correctly.
- Think about what type of text you are going to listen to. What do you know about this type of text?
- Relax and make yourself ready to pay attention to the listening text.

While you are listening

- It is not necessary to understand every single word. Try to ignore those words that you think are less important anyway.
- If there are words or issues that you don't understand, use your general knowledge as well as the context to find out the meaning.
- Focus on key words and facts.
- Take notes to support your memory.
- Intonation and stress of the speakers can help you to understand what you hear.
- Try to think ahead. What might happen next? What might the speakers say, which words might they use?

After listening

- Think about the text again. Have you understood the main points?
- Remember the speculations you made before you listened. Did they come true?
- Review your notes.
- Check whether you have completed your task correctly.
- Listen again to difficult passages.