

Learning Strategy - Working with the Audio Texts

What is the best way for you to go about completing the LISTENING COMPREHENSION exercises?

- It is normal not to understand every single word of a listening comprehension exercise. Therefore, try to concentrate on the **main message**.
- **Before you listen:** It will be helpful if you take a minute to consider a few points before listening. First, read the title of the listening comprehension exercise and look at the picture, drawing or other additional information. This will usually give you information about the contents of the exercise. Then speculate as to what the text could be about. Which **people** are you likely to hear? Where, and in what **situation**, will they find themselves? What **topic** will they be discussing?
- The **topic** and **situation** will help you imagine which words and sentences you will hear in the exercise. For example, if the situation in the exercise is a visit to the doctor, the following questions and statements will likely arise: *Was fehlt Ihnen denn? - Ich habe Kopfschmerzen/Bauchschmerzen. / Mein Bein/Arm/Kopf tut weh. (What seems to be the problem? - I have a headache/stomachache. / My leg/arm/head hurts.)*. If you prepare yourself to hear certain types of words and sentences, you will be better able to recognize and understand these things when you listen.
- Then read the **exercise instructions**. **Why** are you listening to the audio text?

Do you want to

1. get **certain information** (e.g. *the drugstore opening hours*)?
2. get an **overview** (e.g. *listen to the news*)?
3. listen very carefully to something in order to understand all the **details** (e.g. *note down the ingredients for a recipe from the radio or TV*)?

Depending on your objective, you will be required to get more or less accurate information from the exercise.

- **While you are listening**, pay attention to the words that you understand more easily, e.g. names of people and places, numbers and words that are close to words in your native language. When you listen, concentrate on the words you know.
- Then **attempt** the exercise. You may not be able to complete all the tasks. This may either be because you do not know all the words in the instructions or you were not able to identify the required information in the listening exercise.
- **Listen several times**. You already know the listening exercise and have already completed a few tasks. Now you can concentrate on the missing information.
- **After you have listened one more time**, try to complete the remaining tasks. If this is still not possible, it is because you do not understand some important words. Look up the words in the **dictionary**.