

Learning Strategy – Working with the Videos

You are practicing different skills when you watch a video. You are practicing listening comprehension skills when you follow statements or conversations in the videos. And you are practicing using your visual comprehension skills by gathering information from what you are watching.

Before you watch a video: It will be helpful if you take a minute to consider a few points before listening to the dialogue. First, read the title of the video and look at the picture (if available). Then speculate as to what the video could be about. Which **people** are you likely to hear and see? Where, and in what **situation**, will they find themselves? Which **topic** will they be discussing?

The **topic** and **situation** will help you imagine which words and sentences you will hear in the video. For example, if the situation in the video is a visit to the doctor's, the following questions and statements are likely to 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 in the video.

Read the **exercise instructions** that accompany the video. You will often be asked to decide if a statement is true or false, or be required to select a correct answer in a multiple choice question. Read the sentences thoroughly. Disregard the words you don't know at first. Do these sentences refer to information that you will hear or see?

While you are watching: 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. Pay attention to non-verbal signals: what gestures and facial expressions are the people using? What further information do you get from the images?

After you watch the video: Read the exercise instructions again and complete the exercises that you understand. Perhaps there are still some exercises that you cannot complete, either because the exercise includes words you do not recognize, or you were not able to identify the required information in the video.

Watch the video a second time: You already know the video and have already completed a few tasks. Now you can concentrate on the missing information. Quite often, we notice things the second time that we did not notice the first time.

After you have watched the video a second 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**.