

Academic Listening Practice

This resource outlines strategies to develop your listening skills for the courses you're taking.

Why academic listening practice?

Sometimes when we are taking courses in languages outside of our first language, it can become overwhelming due to the speaker's speed and accent. Extra listening practice with an English Language Learning Specialist (ELLS) will set you up for success when listening to lectures and course materials.

How should I practice?

Generally, there are two options for how the Learning Centre can help you develop your listening skills.

	Option 1: Steps to take before your lecture.	Option 2: Listen to a short TED Talk or Podcast to help develop your listening skills.
Goals	Develop techniques to prepare yourself to listen to lectures in English.	General listening skill development to help you feel more confident when you attend class.
What you will do on your own	<p>Preview & Predict: Preview the PowerPoints, Textbook chapters, and syllabus for an upcoming class. Predict what the lecture will be about by creating a list of questions that your instructor might answer during class. The purpose of this is that by asking questions, your brain will want to know the correct answer.</p>	<p>Find relevant material: Decide on an online video or recording, such as something from Douglas College Library's Streaming Videos Collection or a TED Talk.</p> <p>Predict: Create some questions that you think will be answered in the video.</p> <p>Gist Listening: Take some notes and decide if any of your questions were answered or if the issues they discussed were talked about.</p> <p>Listen for language functions: Make a list of any useful vocabulary that you can use in your classes or to become a better communicator in English.</p>
What you will do with your ELLS	<p>Bring the questions you made to your session and show your ELLS where you got the information to create these questions. They check your questions with you, and give you feedback on how to make them more focused.</p> <p>Discuss: You will explain to your ELLS what you think the answers might be. Afterwards, when you go to class, your brain will be well-prepared to listen for the answers. Remember that it is okay if your predictions were incorrect.</p>	<p>Bring the video and your notes to your session.</p> <p>Discuss: Talk with your ELLS about some key things you learned from the video or audio, and how they relate to your course work.</p> <p>Listening for complex meanings: Talk to your ELLS about some questions you had about the video. Listen together, and discuss what you discovered.</p> <p>Review language functions: Share your list of new vocabulary with your ELLS and ask for any feedback and error correction.</p>