

TESOL-SPAIN, 40th Annual National Convention
3-5 March, 2017 - Universidad Miguel Hernández, Elche

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Micro-listening tasks that are real and ...communicative.

Listening is probably one of the most problematic skills for the learners to acquire. During this session we are going to look at solutions that prove that listening activities can be fun and energizing. We will discuss pre-listening tasks and break them down into micro tasks. We will then move on to while-listening activities and finish off with post-listening tasks.

1. Activate students by asking them to stand up when they hear a certain word or expression (e.g. stand up when you hear a colour/ a name of a person etc...).
2. Another version of “Stand up if you hear” is “When you hear X, say Y” which basically means that students have to say a certain expression when they hear the trigger word.
3. Create interest in the topic by introducing e.g. short YouTube clips on the same theme or by presenting the students with some funny or nonsense slogans/pictures/objects related to the topic
4. Running dictation. Chose a text to be dictated, copy it on a sheet of paper, and place somewhere far from the students. Students are divided into As and Bs. Student A sits, with paper and pen and student B goes to the text, reads the chunk, runs back to his or her partner and dictates it. Student A writes it down. Student B goes back to the board for the next part of the text until they complete it.

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5. Shouting Dictations. Divide students into two groups. Students A and students B have various texts that they have to dictate to each other. They sit (or stand) at opposite sides of the classroom, so in order to complete the task they have to speak loudly so that they can hear each other. They must speak over the other students' voices. As this activity can be very loud and might disturb the neighboring classes, it is better to either keep the texts short or warn the teacher next door.

6. Poker chips. Students are divided into groups and discuss the theme of the listening by saying sentences such as "I like eating ice-cream" Students have about 5 poker chips/paper clips/coins etc. Everyone who agrees with the statement throws one poker chip in the middle of the table and repeats the sentence. Students go around the circle until everyone has had a chance to say something. The game is continued until students run out of their poker chips.

7. Q&A session. Divide students into small groups depending on the number of learners you have (about 4 people in each group) and tell them that they are about to ask you question connected with the theme of the listening (e.g. What do you eat for breakfast? What animals can you see in a zoo?) Answer the questions and tell students that they have to listen carefully to your answers write down as many things as they can remember. After the students are done collect their pieces of text and check for mistakes

8. More ideas: bit.ly/2kh0HE4