

# Classroom Listening Inventory

A prerequisite skill for good note-taking is the ability to be an active listener. How well prepared are you to listen to your instructor's lecture while getting the most out of it and into your notes? Which words are usually cues indicating the importance of a fact or action? How do you improve our listening by understanding what you have heard in past lectures?

Using the inventory below, rank your listening skills from 1 to 5. Those items with a high score indicate you are listening well, and those with a score of 3 or lower indicate skills which you may want to work on.

- 1 I listen to instructions carefully and am able to follow them.
- 2 I listen to information carefully and remember what I have been told.
- 3 I skim over the assigned reading before class to familiarize myself with the topics that will be covered.
- 4 I keep a goal or purpose in mind when I listen to a lecture, such as getting the answer to a question or listening for hints on what might be on a test.
- 5 If my attention wanders while someone is speaking, I immediately re-focus on the speaker.
- 6 I do not daydream or text in class.
- 7 When someone speaks, I watch their body language to gather more information on what they consider to be important.
- 8 During a lecture, I try to determine the main points rather than try to remember all the details.
- 9 During a lecture, I try to understand why the material is organized so that I can follow the speaker's thoughts more easily.
- 10 I assess what a speaker is saying and pay attention to my critical responses by saying or writing down my opinions and questions.
- 11 I try to participate actively in class discussions.
- 12 I listen for signal words, such as "first," "the main point is," "significantly."
- 13 I listen for cues such as "to sum up" or "in conclusion" that tell me I am about to hear a condensed version of the main points of the lecture.
- 14 I take notes to move information from the sensory (what I am hearing) to the short-term part of my memory.