SNS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Kurumbapalayam (Po), Coimbatore – 641 107

AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION

Accredited by NBA – AICTE and Accredited by NAAC – UGCwith 'A' Grade
Approved by AICTE, New Delhi & Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai

LISTENING TO SPECIFIC INFORMATION

As communicative language teaching continues to evolve, students are becoming increasingly aware of the important role of listening in language acquisition. Listening in a foreign language is a complex process. Students have to be able to understand the main idea of what is said as well as specific details. In communicative English classes students are surrounded by the spoken language – from the teacher, from their peers, and from audio and video media. They may need to check any predictions they have made, and understand the speaker's meaning, emotions and opinions. They may have to infer relationships between speakers, or identify the context in which the speakers are operating.

- Listening to a recorded message can be more difficult.

- It's important that you're clear about what information you're listening for.

- So before you listen, think about what you want to know.

- You could prepare by having a note ready.

- Remember, you can listen to the message as often as you like.

The first step in learning how to listen is for them to notice their task --learners need to be aware of what they are listening for. The goal affects the way they listen. Before that, choose a task. Read one (and only one) of the tasks below.

Task 1

What's the main topic of the conversation?

- sports

- the weather

- the window

Task 2

What's the weather like?
- It's sunny.
- It's cold.
- It's raining

Task 3

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Do the people go outside?
- yes
- no

Now read this conversation and decide the answer to your task.

Rafael: I need some exercise. Do you want to go outside?

Maybe we could play tennis?

Erika: Tennis? Look out the window. It's raining.

Rafael: Raining? Oh, no.

How you read depended on which task you choose.

- ➤ Task one was reading for the gist or general understanding.
- ➤ Task two asked for specific information.
- ➤ Task three depended on inference.