

Knowledge and Strategies

Stage III Listening

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These are some things that may need to be learned as an individual moves through Stage III Listening.

Grammatical Knowledge

Ability to understand:

- Complex grammar and syntax structures to interpret nuances of meaning (such as past conditionals, reported speech, past or future perfect passive, perfect or past infinitives, subordinate adverbial clauses, subordinating conjunctions and modals to express logical deduction)
- Words and lexical phrases (such as formulaic language) used for specific topics in academic and professional contexts
- English phonological sound systems (such as sound segments, rhythm and intonation) to interpret oral discourse

Textual Knowledge

Ability to:

- Recognize cohesion links (such as phrasal links) across utterances
- Recognize discourse indicators signalling major parts and thematic sub-parts, topic shifts and transitions in ideas (such as explanations or reformulation of information, illustrations/examples, introduction of contrasting information such as alternatives, opposing views, unexpected turn)
- Synthesize, integrate and interpret texts

Functional Knowledge

Recognition of:

- Thematic organization of sub-parts of presentations or lectures (such as patterns of narrating, reporting, describing, arguing a point, expressing results or consequences)
- Typical organization patterns of lectures (such as reviews of information previously covered, overviews of present lectures, outlines of main points, use of examples and details to provide support, importance of conclusions and summaries)
- Typical discourse formats for different situations

Ability to:

- Listen to information to perform actions (such as abstract problem solving, decision making, gathering, using and manipulating information and negotiating meaning)
- Understand humour, jokes, songs, rhymes, dramas, stories and anecdotes
- Understand and reduce information to main points or to selected key points relevant to ideas or topics (such as summarizing and note taking)

Sociolinguistic Knowledge

Understanding of:

- Different registers, styles and language varieties (dialects, regionalisms, language used by specific social and age groups)
- Language, discourse formats and processes, and content and socio-cultural knowledge relating to workplace/business communications, and to specific academic disciplines
- Expanded cultural references
- Expanded colloquial, idiomatic and literary language
- Non-verbal communication that accompanies speech (such as non-verbal vocalizations and variations in voice volume and pitch within sentences to convey different meanings and emotions)

Strategic Competence

Ability to:

- Distinguish given information (i.e., assumed to be known) from new information in speech
- Recognize avoidance strategies
- Recognize language used to compensate for or avoid miscommunication
- Infer unstated information and to hypothesize, guess and predict
- Use context clues, background knowledge, non-verbal communication signals and knowledge of vocabulary and grammar structures to interpret meaning
- Recognize paralinguistic clues for making inferences, hypothesizing, guessing and predicting