

DIRECT STRATEGIES: LISTENING

STRATEGY GROUP: Cognitive
STRATEGY SET: Practicing
STRATEGY: Practicing naturalistically

As applied to listening, this learning strategy involves understanding the meaning of the spoken language in as naturalistic a context as possible.

Construct listening comprehension exercises around a specific task, in which students are required to do something in response to what they hear.

For example, they might be required to express agreement or disagreement, take notes, mark a picture or diagram according to instructions, or answer questions. This requirement gives learners a purpose for listening.
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Listening exercises should not include tasks that require a lot of reading or writing, unless the intention is to develop several skills jointly.

Tell students the correct answers immediately after the exercise, so they can check their own performance, then explain in more detail the reasons why certain responses are preferred. This encourages learners to use strategies such as **self-monitoring** and

self-evaluating, which are powerful motivators and enhancers of understanding.

Technology offers many opportunities for naturalistic listening practice inside or outside of the classroom. Learners can use **tapes** and **records** to practice on their own. The addition of a **visual image** often provides learners with an invaluable context to which they may relate the spoken form. **Realia, drawings and homemade videos** are very basic visual tools to enhance listening practice. Films are a wonderful sound-and-image resource.