Accuracy in Listening – Listening to discussion on specific issues

Listening plays a key role in communicative situations, as the output of listening in all these situations is to make considered oral responses – listening is the process of receiving and interpreting the spoken word. It involves recognizing what is said and comprehending the matter, that is understanding the main message and the links when contribute to the whole. So the listener is concerned with sensing, message decoding or interpreting, evaluating and response.

Listening could be superficial, appreciative focused, evaluative and attentive. The accuracy in listening to discussion on specific issues can be achieved through focused listening evaluative attentive listening & empathetic listening.

Focused listening involves listening for specific information. The main purpose is to get some specific information. The purpose of evaluative listening is to evaluate the content of the oral message to select appropriate information. All listening demands the complete attention of the listener. It facilitates proper interaction and more effective listener – speaker relationship. The listener has to concentrate and involve himself with responsibility. Finally empathetic listening also helps in listening to discussion on specific issues.

Empathetic listening is listening to the speaker attentively and analyse his emotions feelings and state of mind. The listener has to understand and respond to the affective signals that the speaker might make, and has to be alert to the speaker’s implied meaning, intention and attitude. He should also interpret non-verbal clues and the body language of the speaker.

We listen to different kinds of oral messages for different purposes. But an accurate listener who listens for specific purpose should listen attentively and lecture. Try to comprehend different view on the subject in order to contribute later. To achieve the above said listening techniques a good listener should know the difference between effective and ineffective listening and do away with the barriers to listening. Effective listening takes place when the listener is motivated to listen, pays attention to the speaker without any distraction, concentrates on the topic, uses background information to help understand the lecture, interprets and analyses while listening and ask questions for clarifications.

In ineffective listening, the listener does not pay attention even to the title of the speech or main points and supporting details. Listener does not concentrate and does not have an idea about the main theme.
To be an accurate listener one has to do away with the physical, psychological linguistic or cultural physical barriers which include noise, physical discomfort physical distractions and distance. Psychological barriers are negative emotions, anxiety or any emotional disturbance. Sometime linguistic barriers like improper message decoding, miscommunication and lack of clear expression of language could be a hindrance. At times different social norms, different values and cultural differences could be a barrier to the listener.

Thus if the listener learns to do away with the barriers to listening; masters the difference between effective listening and ineffective listening and follows the various types of listening, he can listen accurately and achieve listening to discussion on specific issues.

Assignment

Listen to recorded lectures and try to summarize the points.