

Chapter 6: “Listen Up” from Select Readings (Upper–Intermediate, 2nd Edition) by Linda Lee & Jean Bernard:

☐ Chapter Summary

Listening ≠ Hearing

The reading begins by challenging the common misconception that listening simply means hearing. Listening is an active, intentional process involving focus, understanding, and response—far more complex than just processing sounds .

Why active listening matters

Developing effective listening skills supports comprehension, critical thinking, and meaningful communication. It’s essential in academic settings, work environments, and personal interactions.

Common listening barriers

The chapter highlights obstacles such as:

Distractions (external noise, multitasking)

Prejudgments or biases (forming opinions before listening fully)

Poor concentration (mind wandering or daydreaming)

Core listening strategies

1. **Previewing:** Anticipate content by considering context, listening for cues before the main message begins.
2. **Selective attention:** Focus on key words, transitions, tone of voice—these often signal important information.
3. **Note-taking:** Use shorthand and symbols to record main ideas quickly without losing your place.
4. **Clarifying:** Ask questions or seek repetition when something isn’t clear—and observe nonverbal signals for emphasis.

Post-listening techniques

After listening, the chapter suggests summarizing the speaker’s main points and reflecting on their intentions. Discussion prompts and writing tasks then encourage deeper engagement with the material.

☐ Typical Chapter Components

Pre-listening prompts: Activating background knowledge and preparing attention.

Listening passage: Often a spoken dialogue or brief talk.

Comprehension questions: Multiple-choice or short-answer to check understanding.

Skill focus: Visuals and explanations of listening strategies like previewing and note-taking.

Follow-up activities: Pair or group discussions, reflective writing tasks, vocabulary review.

☐ Vocabulary to Focus On

Active listening, selective attention, infer, paraphrase, clarify, note-taking, barrier, preview, key word, signal phrase, comprehension.