

Tikrit University  
College of Education  
English Department  
Class:2<sup>nd</sup>



## Select Readings

Lecture Title: Youngsters Behind Youtube

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# Listen Up: Understanding the Art of Listening

## Introduction

Listening is one of the most important skills for communication. It is more than just hearing words; it involves understanding, interpreting, and responding to the messages of others. Effective listening allows people to build stronger relationships, learn new information, and make better decisions. In today's fast-paced world, the ability to listen carefully has become essential in education, work, and personal life.

The phrase "Listen Up" encourages paying attention and focusing fully on what someone is saying. Good listening is not passive—it requires active engagement, patience, and empathy.

## Importance of Listening

Listening plays a vital role in communication. Some reasons why listening is important include:

**Improves Understanding:** By listening carefully, we understand instructions, ideas, and emotions better.

**Example:** Students who listen attentively in class retain more information.

**Builds Strong Relationships:** People feel valued when others truly listen to them.

**Example:** Friends and family trust and connect better when they feel heard.

**Enhances Problem-Solving:** Listening helps gather important details needed for making decisions.

**Example:** Managers who listen to their teams can identify challenges and find solutions.

**Encourages Learning:** Listening is a key part of learning new languages, skills, or knowledge.

**Example:** Learning a new language requires listening to pronunciation and context.

## Three Levels of Listening

Listening is more than just hearing words. It is a skill that requires focus, attention, and understanding. According to communication experts, listening can happen at three main levels. Each level shows how deeply a listener pays attention to the speaker.

### Medium

#### Level 1: Internal Listening

This is the first and most basic level of listening. At this level, the listener is mostly focused on their own thoughts, feelings, and reactions rather than on the speaker's message. The listener may hear some words but doesn't fully understand or engage with what the speaker is saying.

### Medium

#### Characteristics of Level 1:

The listener thinks about what they want to say next.

They may be distracted by their own ideas or emotions.

They often miss important details.

Listening is more about self-awareness than understanding the speaker.

### Medium

#### Simple Example:

If someone says "I'm really tired today," a Level 1 listener might think, "I'm tired too, I didn't sleep well last night." In this case, the listener hears the words but focuses on themselves instead of the speaker.

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#### Level 2: Focused Listening

At this level, the listener pays full attention to the speaker. They focus on the words, meaning, and general message without letting their own thoughts distract them. Level 2 listening helps people to understand what is being said clearly and accurately.

Medium +1

Features of Level 2:

The listener concentrates on the speaker.

They try to understand the message and the meaning behind the words.

They ignore distractions and internal thoughts.

This level builds clearer communication and better understanding.

Medium

Simple Example:

If you are listening to a lecture, and you focus on the speaker's main ideas and details without thinking about your own thoughts, you are using Level 2 listening.

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Level 3: Global Listening

This is the highest and deepest level of listening. A Level 3 listener not only pays attention to words and meaning but also to non-verbal signals, emotions, context, and even what is not said. It requires full presence and awareness of the whole communication situation.

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- What Makes Level 3 Special:

The listener notices tone of voice, pauses, body language, and emotions.

They pay attention to context and deeper messages behind the words.

They listen with intuition and awareness of the whole environment.

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Simple Example:

If a friend says "I'm OK," but their voice sounds sad or nervous, a Level 3 listener will notice the emotion behind the words and might ask, "Are you sure? You sound tired. What's going on?"

The People Piece