6 Strategies for Developing Listening Skills for MET Go!

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• Overview of MET Go! Listening Test & skills tested

• 6 strategies for developing listening skills

• Examples & activities for each strategy

• Q & A
An engaging 4-skills exam for ages 11-15

• Beginner—intermediate (CEFR Levels A1-B1)

• 4-skills or 3-skills exam (Optional speaking section)

• Topics geared toward young teens
MET Go! Listening Test

Format & Content

30 items in 5 parts

Listening test time: 30 minutes

Part 1: Identify people in a picture based on short descriptions

Part 2: Answer/response items

Part 3: Answering questions about a short conversation using illustrations

Part 4: Longer conversations with multiple questions

Part 5: Short announcement with multiple questions
MET Go! Listening Skills

Focus of the test questions

Global
• understanding of a conversation or talk as a whole.

Local
• understanding supporting detail or vocabulary.
Overview of Strategies

A Framework for Focused Listening Practice

- Multiple task types & variations per strategy
- Adaptable for learners at all levels
- Authentic contexts
- Opportunities for peer listening
Strategy 1

Listen & Answer Questions

- Global or local skills
- Most similar to MET Go! parts 4 and 5
- Practice regularly for comprehension checks
Strategy 1

Listen & Answer Questions

Question types

- True/False
- Yes/No
- Either/Or
- Wh-questions: open-ended or multiple choice

Focus for questions

- Specific factual details
- Main ideas
- Purpose
- Vocabulary

Teacher or student-generated questions
Strategy 1 Example

Listen & Answer Questions

Task:
While listening to the conversation, think of different types of questions you could ask students about it.

- True/False
- Yes/No
- Wh- questions
Strategy 1 Example

Listen & Answer Questions

Wh-question:
Where is the girl going this evening?

True/False:
The boy is going with her.

Yes/No:
Does the boy like fireworks?
Strategy 1 Example

Listen & Answer Questions

Challenge Question (Poll):

What will the girl and her friends do before the fireworks show?
Question from Practice Test Item:

Why won’t the man go to the fireworks show?
Strategy 2

*Listen & Reply/Respond/Select*

- Global or local skills
- Shorter conversations or passages
- Quickly identify a matching or corresponding picture, person or detail in a picture location or setting
- Create an appropriate response to an unfinished dialogue prompt or question
Strategy 2 Example 1

Listen & Reply/Respond/Select

Practice Activity:
Look at a set of pictures and listen to sentences or conversations; select the correct matching picture.

A. B. C.
Strategy 2 Example 2

*Listen & Reply/Respond/Select*

**Practice Activity:**
Look at a set of pictures and listen to sentences or conversations; select the correct matching picture.

A.  
B.  
C.  

A. [Image of a person walking a dog in a park]  
B. [Image of a mountain landscape]  
C. [Image of a playground with swings and a slide]
Strategy 2 Example 3

Listen & Reply/Respond/Select

Test item:
Listen to a brief dialogue followed by a question, and select the correct picture response.

A.  
B.  
C.  
Strategy 2 Example 4

Listen & Reply/Respond/Select

Task: Identify people in a picture.
Strategy 3

Listen & Fill in

Local skills (details & vocabulary)

Students listen & read along & fill in the blanks

Highly motivating for all levels

Works with monologues or dialogues

Many possible variations (chart, outline, diagram)

CLOZE: Transcript with missing words/phrases
Strategy 3

Listen & Fill-in: Preparation Tips

- Listen ahead of time before selecting words
- Omit words based on: part of speech, content vocabulary learned, main ideas/important details of the passage, random selection
- Emphasize content/lexical words
- Pause audio if needed
- Repeat audio (except for advanced learners)
- Provide word bank (if needed)
Strategy 3 Example

*Listen & Fill-in*

**Task:**

Listen to a brief student class presentation.

While listening, fill in the blanks with the missing words.
Strategy 3 Example

Listen & Fill-in

How would you vary this exercise for your students?

Would you provide a word bank?

How many times do you think you would have to play the passage for your students?
Strategy 4

Listen & Write

Mainly global skills

Listen to passage and write:

A title
A single-sentence summary
An outline or notes
A text or email
Strategy 4 Example

Listen & Write

Task:
Choose a title for the second example you heard in Strategy 3, using the poll function:

• “Crazy Ancient Romans”
• “A History of Sports”
• “Forgotten Sports of the Past”
• “Sports in Ancient Rome”
Strategy 5

Listen & Re-tell

- Global & local listening skills
- Dialogues or monologues
- Report back: re-tell main ideas and/or details
- Focus on content, not memorizing/reciting
- Ideally, plan as an information gap activity
Strategy 5 Example 1

Listen & Re-tell

Task:

• Listen to the dialogue about going to fireworks.
• Imagine you are the girl.
• Your speaking partner is another friend who will be going with you.
• Tell them what your friend told you.
Strategy 5 Example 2

*Listen & Re-tell*

**Task:**

- Listen to the announcement about the science center field trip.
- Imagine you are a student in the class.
- Your speaking partner is a classmate who wasn’t in class.
- Tell them what they need to know about the field trip.
Strategy 6

*Listen & Re-enact/Expand*

- All MET Go! listening skills (global & local)
- Shorter or longer dialogues
- Lower level option: vary only 1 or 2 details; allow students to take notes ahead of time
- Advanced learners: improvise a similar dialogue with variations by changing some details; minimal use of notes/planning
- Engages students interactively with peer listening
Strategy 6 Example

Listen & Re-enact/Expand

Task: Think about the “tennis practice” dialogue. Create a similar/alternate dialogue by changing:

- which sport team they are on
- type of injury, or other reason for absence
- emotion/attitude
- long-term outcome/plan
Final Words

More to come…

• Summary: 6 Strategies, a framework
• Next in this series: MET Go! “Ready, Set, Go!”
• Get the MET Go! Practice Test book!
• Watch your email:
  • Survey for your feedback
  • Certificate of Participation
  • Handout with additional activities, plus link to recording & slides
Thank You!

Interested in Learning More?

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