



IIT Madras
ONLINE DEGREE



APPROACHES TO LISTENING

ACTIVITY

- Based on what you have understood till now answer the following questions:

I. Say whether the following statements are T/F

- a. Comprehension is possible even if we do not listen to the speaker.
- b. Thinking is an important aspect of language processing.
- c. A good listener is a good communicator.

BOTTOM UP PROCESS

- - Recognize words and clauses
- - Recognize key words
- - Recognize key transition words/phrases in a discourse/speech
- - Recognize grammatical relationships between key words in the sentence
- - Recognize the order in which words occur in a sentence

TASKS THAT DEVELOP BOTTOM UP PROCESS

- Listening to positive and negative statements and choose an appropriate response. These are statements from a longer spoken discourse.
- StatementOptions
- a. That's a nice bagYesNo
- b. That's not a very good ideaYesNo
- c. This tea isn't hotYesNo

ACTIVITY TO DEVELOP IDENTIFYING KEY WORDS

- Listen to the following:
- My town is a nice place to visit as it is close to a forest, there are lots of interesting short walks one can do before going into the deep. The town is surrounded by greenery.
- Task:
- Which of these words do you hear?
- Town, forest, walks, greenery, shops, countryside

ACTIVITY FOR TOP DOWN PROCESS

- Imagine I make the following statement to my friend:
- “I am going to the dentist tomorrow”
- The moment I say this a thought process is activated around “going to the dentist”. This includes:
 - A setting (dentist office)
 - People there (the dentist, his assistant, the other patients)
 - Reason (to have a check up, filling, replacing a tooth)
 - Procedure (drilling, rinsing, injection)
 - Outcome (fixing the problem, pain, discomfort)

- The next day when I meet my friend I ask him:
- How was it?
- Fine, not as painful as I thought it would be.
- Without giving any background the two people involved in the conversation are able to understand what it is about as the listener understands what “going to the dentist” means.

TOP DOWN PROCESS

- A listener who develops this ability can do the following:
 - Can use key words to construct the ideas involved in a conversation/discourse
 - Can infer the setting for a text
 - Can infer the role of the participants and their goals
 - Can infer cause and effect relationship
 - Can guess unsaid details of a situation/ guess
 - Can guess/anticipate questions related to a given topic

ACTIVITY TO DEVELOP TOP DOWN PROCESS

- Imagine you are going to listen to a talk on Birds of India:
- Prepare a set of five questions which you think might get answered during the talk
- Read this conversation about “going abroad to study”. You are provided with what the first person says, predict the speaker’s part
- Text of first speaker:
- Speaker 1: Going abroad to study has become very common these days. Many students from India wish to go the US, Canada, or European countries for studies.
- Speaker 2:
- Speaker 1: Many students prefer the US the next destination is Canada these days and after that comes Australia and UK
- Speaker 2: