



# IIT Madras

## ONLINE DEGREE

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**Basic English**  
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**Indian Institute of Technology, Madras**  
**Lecture No. 64**  
**Listening**

Welcome to the class. Today we are going to work on Listening. Listening is an important component in learning a language; learning to listen is different from practising to listening. We are going to make an effort to help you learn listening. When we learn to listen, we learn several things, and it has an impact on other aspects of language. Learning to listen in listening is a precursor to understanding, listening precedes understanding.

So, the more carefully and attentively we listen, the better is our output and like I mentioned before, it has a positive impact on several other aspects of our learning of language. So, without talking much about what listening is and what significance of listening is for us, we are getting into listening per se and see how we pay attention to things and what we do with these things and how we cultivate the habit of listening and what we can do while we listen after we listen to something. Let us go and look at this.

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Can you guess the names of the places from the pictures below?



**Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**

In 2002, the Sriharikota Range was renamed in memory of the former chairman of the ISRO, Satish Dhawan, the man who made India's space dream a reality.

Have you heard of Prof. Satish Dhawan?

**September 25, 2020- The Centenary birth anniversary of Prof. Satish Dhawan.**



Please look at these two pictures, can you find out what these pictures are, what they look like to you, do you know the names for these pictures? Spend a moment for this. I am sure you will come up with this. These are the two different images of Satish Dhawan Space Center, Sriharikota. In 2002, the Sriharikota range was renamed in the memory of the

former chairman of ISRO, Professor Satish Dhawan, the man who made India's space dream a reality.

One of the major figures in India's space mission, the man who has dedicated his lifetime to build space mission for India. When we say the man who made India's space dream a reality, this is not to discredit others who have worked for the space mission; this is one of the important names in the space mission of India. I am sure you have heard about Satish Dhawan you have heard this name and 2020 particularly September 25, 2020, was the centenary birth anniversary for Professor Satish Dhawan, why are we talking about this?

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Please listen to the Audio:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/19WKyjIM2ld-5IykZTneCqoRLSitiUy\\_H/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/19WKyjIM2ld-5IykZTneCqoRLSitiUy_H/view?usp=sharing)



We want you to listen to something. Listen to this carefully, and then we will work on this part.

Audio: This is All India Radio; we now bring you a radio report on the function organized earlier today by ISRO to mark the birth centenary of a renowned scientist Professor Satish Dhawan. The man who shaped the Indian space program, Professor Dhawan was a passionate teacher, a demanding research guide and a pragmatic engineer known as the father of experimental fluid dynamics research in India.

Satish was born on September 25, 1920, in Srinagar Kashmir, his parents came from professional families, and his father Devi Dayal retired as a respective judge of the High Court in Lahore, now in Pakistan. Satish graduated from the University of Lahore with an unusual combination of degrees. A B.A. in physics and mathematics 1938, an M.A. in

English literature 1941 and a B.E. with honors in Mechanical Engineering 1945. In 1946, he travelled on a Government scholarship to the United States where he obtained an M.S. from the University of Minnesota. 1947 and then an M.S. in Aeronautical Engineering 1949 and a P.hd in aeronautics and mathematics 1951 at the California Institute of Technology Caltech, the USA under Professor.

Professor Dhawan left the United States in 1951 to join the Indian Institute of Science as a scientific officer. He rose rapidly to become Professor and Head of the department of Aeronautical Engineering in 1955 and in 1962 Director of the institute. An IISc director from 1962 to 1981. Dhawan devoted much time to the establishment of a number of new scientific programs. Dhawan was on a well-earned sabbatical at Caltech in 1971-1972 when he was called upon to take over India's fledgeling space program after its visionary founder Vikram Sarabhai passed away at an early age.

Although India's space program owes its birth to the vision of Vikram Sarabhai, it was Dhawan who lent substance to his vision and built ISRO into the world-class body that it is today. 'Problems of India and the fact that it is only the application of science and technology which can resolve them, Dr Vikram Sarabhai the great scientist and imaginative leader considered how advanced science and technology could be applied for developmental purposes. One of the projects which he conceived of sometime in 1967 was to see if satellite communications can assist the development of our country.

He proposed that we use this new technology mass communications for broadly educational and developmental purposes, for specially directed areas of our country. Dhawan agreed, and a new structure was set up involving a policy-making space commission, an administrative arm of the government called the department of space and a science and technology agency called the Indian Space Research Organization, ISRO, all three headed by one person.

Thus, they began a parallel career track for Dhawan who continued to be the director of IISC at Bangalore. He convinced the government that this arrangement would bring synergy to the space program. On a token salary of 1 rupee per month, he became the chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization, ISRO and the chairman of the Indian Space Commission in the year 1972 and continued upto 1984.

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## ACTIVITY

1. What does the word “centenary” mean?
2. Fill up the table below as you listen to the audio

Graduation	BA	MA	BE	MS	MS	PhD.
Year of passing						
Specialization						
University						



So, you heard this short comment short document on Satish Dhawan. It is full of information, it gives you who he was, how he started his career, how he started his academics first, what he has studied, the entire trajectory of his academic development, his return to India, his efforts in building organizations and so on and it gives you lot many details.

Now a careful listening will yield the following, you may have to listen to this a couple of times initially but irrespective of a number of times we listen to a recorded video, our goal is to result it into yielding the following results that we can if we under if we heard it carefully we understand it and listening to understanding yields the result of information that you can get and that you can produce.

Remember, this is a recorded short clip. You can listen to this as many times as you can, but when people speak, you do not have the same thing at your disposal. Very rarely, we can ask someone to repeat what they said; it is for us to retain the information that we heard. Therefore, I said listening is an important activity, it is we are very we are hard-pressed of time, and our mind is involved in multiple cognitive processes when we are listening.

Therefore, to yield this result, we need to yield the result of this kind that we are going to discuss the only thing which helps is careful attention. So, let us go through the kind of information that we would like to retain after listening to such a thing that we have just heard you can for your purpose you can replay and hear this thing one more time.

So, let me start with a very simple thing it is quite easy, and we all understand, what does the word 'centenary' mean? We are not only asking for a translation of this word in your respective languages. I am sure you understand it means 100 years of time. So, and this has a specific meaning in the clip that 2020 was a birth centenary year for Satish Dhawan as he was born in 1920.

So, when if you try filling up this information when did he graduate, with a B.A. degree, M.A. degree, B.E., MS, another M.S. and PhD that is you all these years were mentioned would you be able to reproduce those years in the column? Check if you can after once or if you cannot you have to listen to this one more time, but that tells you the kind of information you would need to retain. His specializations in B.A., MA, B.E., MS, MS and PhD and the name of the place that is, universities, respective universities for these degrees where did he do his B.A. from? What was the name of the university where he did his M.A.? Then B.E., then MS 1, MS 2 and PhD.

So, he was born in Srinagar you have heard. He went to you know to university in Lahore, so you have to remember what he studied in Lahore and what was the degree that he earned in Lahore. Then he went to Minnesota in the United States where he did his first M.S., then did he do his second M.S. in the same university? What was the specialization for the two different M.S. degrees that he obtained in the United States? And then finally what was his specialization for his PhD, and here I can tell you he did his PhD at Caltech which is also known as California Institute of Technology.

So, we are only asking for this much; you can produce more and more information if you have heard these things. If it generates your interest, things like you would also know the name of his supervisor that is the supervisor for a doctoral dissertation; it is given in this audio. So, this is the kind of this is just a grid to help you retain the kind of information that we are asking that you will be expected to when we hear something.

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3. Arrange the following designations in the order in which they are mentioned in the audio.

Head of Department	1.
Director	2.
Professor	3.
Scientific officer	4.



Now what you can also do is try arranging the following designation in the order in which they are mentioned in the audio clip, he was the head of the department, he was the director, he was a professor, he was a scientific officer. So, if you understand this academic trajectory, then it is not very difficult for you to do. But when you heard this audio clip, was he appointed as a scientific officer first or as a professor? Did he become the director of the institute before becoming the Professor or was he a professor first and then he became the director of the institute and so on? So, you put them in chronological order in which they appear in this audio.

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4. Prof Dhawan served as the Director of IISc from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Who was the second person who spoke in the audio?
6. "All three headed by one person." What are the three organizations referred in the audio?
7. Prof. Satish Dhawan was receiving Re.1 (salary) as the Director of ISRO. Do you know any other Directors/CEO's who is also in the Re.1 salary club?



I suggest you to work on the following. Professor Dhawan served as the director of IISC from which year to which year? Who was the second person who spoke in the audio? So, you hear two types of sounds, two types of voice, one is, of course, the narrator of the audio and then in between in this short audio clip you hear another sound. Who was that person? All the three-headed by one person, what are the three organizations referred to in the audio? He went in an institute of science; he also headed ISRO, what was the name of the third organization? Was there the third organization?

We need to retain this information after listening to something. Satish Dhawan received rupee one salary as the director of ISRO, do you know any other director CEO who is also in the rupee 1 salary club? It is a notional thing we hear so many names from time to time. Just in case you happen to know to try to bring that out from your memory, the hint that I can suggest you here is definitely there are many more.

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#### 8. Minimal pair Dictation:

- a) Climb / Crime
- b) Link / Rink
- c) Root / Loot
- d) Cloud / Crowd
- e) Light / Right
- f) Royal / Loyal
- g) Arrive / Alive



And finally, something of structural nature that we want you to do to pay attention because remember I mentioned that listening has a serious impact on making your own speaking influential. So, some of these things that you can do to improve that. So here is a short exercise on minimal pair dictation, you know about dictation, we speak a word, and the listener is supposed to write without interrupting or whatever you hear.

So, these are called minimal pairs, not in the technical sense of that but just one sound that is different in these two words which we call a pair. So, the first pair is climb and crime, 'climb' remember one more time minimal pair is a technical term in language but we are calling this



to the set a pair. So, because we want you to pay attention to a specific sound that is different in these two words. Climb, crime, link, rink, root, loot, cloud, crowd, light, right, royal, loyal, arrive, alive.

So, please pay attention to this and see what is the sound that is being contrasted, what are the two sounds they are being contrasted with, these two sounds are very important sounds in learning, and you will realize the significance of those sounds on your own. So, these are some of the things that we do, and the most important part of listening is the retention of information, the process involved in understanding and its impact on speaking the language.

So, we do more carefully you listen to something, not only we retain information, it has a dramatic and influential impact on how we speak. Thank you for today, we will come back with another one soon.

