red: Subject

orange: Predicate Verb/ Link Verb

blue: Object/ Subject Complement

violet: Object Complement

A recent poll indicated that half the teenagers in the United States believe that communication between them and their parents is poor and further that one of the prime causes of this gap is deficient listening behavior. As a(an) case in point, one parent believed that her daughter had a severe hearing problem. She was so convinced that she took her to an audiologist to have her ear tested. The audiologist carefully tested both ears and reported back to the parent：“There‘s nothing wrong with her hearing. She’s just tuning you out.”

A leading cause of the rising divorce rate (more than half of all marriages end in divorce) is the failure of husbands and wives to interact effectively. They don’t listen to each other. Neither person responds to the actual message sent by the other.

In like fashion, political scientists report that a growing number of people believe that their elected and appointed officials are out of touch with the constituents they are supposedly representing. Why? Because they don’t believe that they listen to them. In fact, it seems that sometimes our politicians don’t even listen to themselves. The following is a true story: At a national legislative conference held in Albuquerque some years ago, then Senator Joseph Montoya was handed a copy of a press release by a press aide shortly before he got up before the audience to deliver a speech. When he rose to speak, to the horror of the press aide and the amusement of his audience, Montoya began reading the press release, not his speech. He began, “For immediate release. Senator Joseph M. Montoya, Democrat of New Mexico, last night told the National...” Montoya read the entire six-page release, concluding with the statement that he “was repeatedly interrupted by applause.”