The difficulty of lectures – Summary

(By Wisam Siyamak)

There are three issues with lectures and note taking that international students have. Firstly, knowing what to listen to; secondly, the difficulty in catching words; finally, problems with the speaker. The first problem for the “Knowing What to Listen to” is copying everything they hear. The second problem is the culture, especially for international students where they might understand the speaker differently than other students. The final issue is not keeping track of the main content of the lecture.

The second section is about struggle to understand some words that the lecturer says. Pronunciation, lack of practice and limited vocabulary are the reasons for this problem, it is difficult to catch the pronunciation correctly if the speaker has an unfamiliar accent. Practice is the second reason, because international students do not practice listening enough to other languages than their first language. The final reason is the low vocabulary level. Listening can be difficult because of the lack of the general academic vocabulary and subject specific vocabulary levels are low.

The final section is students might have some problems with the speaker. It is not a big issue if technology is not involved in the lecture, so being prepared for different styles and different way of talking is the best way to deal with this problem, because colloquial or informal language can be used by the lecturers.