

# Teaching listening



## Stories

Stories and anecdotes form an important part of our everyday communication; what we did at the weekend, the latest news, talking about films...

Everyone loves a good story – children, teenagers and adults. We need to give learners a reason to listen to a story in class.

- Tell learners three stories about your life, two true and one false. They listen and decide which story is false.
- We can tell a story with two different endings and the learners discuss which is correct.
- Learners can listen to a story then try to retell it in groups, each person taking it in turns to say one sentence.

## Dictogloss

This is a very flexible type of dictation that involves listening to the teacher, speaking in groups, writing and checking.

- The teacher reads a short text to the learners, who just listen. The teacher reads the text again, and the learners take notes. Then in groups they recreate the text from their notes.
- To check the groups' texts, volunteers can write the text on the board sentence by sentence while their classmates make any necessary corrections. We can accept any versions of the original text if the language is correct.
- For lower levels you can help learners by giving them the text with words missing and they have to fill the gaps.

## Describe and draw

This is a fun listening activity for all ages. The learners have a real reason to listen and also to ask questions.

In this example the learners draw an animal but you can choose any drawing for your learners to describe.

- Each learner draws an animal. The learners must not show their drawings to others.
- Put the learners in pairs. One learner describes their drawing in English to the other, who tries to draw the same animal without seeing the picture. This learner can also ask questions to get more information.
- Set a time limit and then let learners compare their animals. The results are usually very amusing - and creative!

**Tip: Demonstrate the activity with a learner before you put the class into pairs.**

