

English File Elementary Listening Document

english file elementary listening is an essential component of the English language learning journey, especially for beginners. Listening skills are fundamental to developing overall language proficiency as they help learners understand spoken English, improve pronunciation, expand vocabulary, and gain confidence in real-life communication. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the importance of listening at the elementary level, how to effectively use "English File Elementary Listening" resources, and practical tips to improve your listening skills.

Understanding the Importance of Listening in English Learning

Why Listening Matters for Beginners

Listening is often considered the cornerstone of language acquisition. For elementary learners, developing strong listening skills provides several benefits:

- Enhanced Comprehension: Understanding everyday conversations, instructions, and dialogues.
- Pronunciation and Accent Recognition: Hearing native speakers helps learners mimic sounds accurately.
- Vocabulary Acquisition: Exposure to new words in context boosts vocabulary.
- Confidence Building: Successfully understanding spoken English encourages learners to participate more actively.

The Role of Listening in Overall Language Development

While speaking, reading, and writing are vital skills, listening lays the foundation for effective communication. It enables learners to:

- Follow spoken instructions.
- Engage in conversations.
- Absorb cultural nuances and idiomatic expressions.
- Transition smoothly to more advanced language proficiency levels.

Introducing English File Elementary Listening Resources

What is the English File Series?

The "English File" series, developed by Oxford University Press, is a popular set of English language textbooks and audio resources tailored for different proficiency levels. The Elementary level focuses on beginner to pre-intermediate learners and emphasizes practical language skills.

Features of English File Elementary Listening

- Authentic Audio Content: Real-life conversations, interviews, and dialogues.
- Variety of Listening Activities: Multiple formats such as fill-in-the-blanks, multiple choice, matching, and true/false.
- Progressive Difficulty: Gradually increasing complexity to build confidence.
- Integrated Approach: Combining listening with vocabulary, grammar, and speaking exercises.

Components of the Listening Materials

- Audio Tracks: Clear recordings usually accompanied by transcripts.
- Student Book Exercises: Tasks designed to reinforce listening comprehension.
- Online Resources: Interactive activities and downloadable audio files.
- Teacher Guides: Strategies for classroom implementation and tips.

Effective Strategies for Using English File Elementary Listening Resources

Before Listening: Preparation Tips

- Preview Vocabulary: Familiarize yourself with key words and phrases related to the lesson.
- Set Clear Goals: Decide what you want to achieve from the activity, such as understanding main ideas or specific details.
- Create a Conducive Environment: Minimize distractions and ensure good audio quality.

During Listening: Active Engagement

- Listen Multiple Times: First for general understanding, then for details.
- Use Transcripts: Follow along with transcripts to match spoken words with written text.
- Take Notes: Jot down unfamiliar words or important points.
- Use Context Clues: Infer meaning from the context and surrounding words.

After Listening: Reinforcement and Practice

- Answer Comprehension Questions: Check understanding with exercises.
- Summarize Content: Practice paraphrasing what you've heard.
- Practice Speaking: Replay and try to mimic pronunciation and intonation.
- Expand Vocabulary: Learn new words or expressions encountered during listening.

Tips to Improve Your Listening Skills with English File Elementary

Regular Practice

Consistency is key. Dedicate daily or weekly time to listening activities. Short, frequent sessions are more effective than irregular, lengthy ones.

Use a Variety of Listening Materials

While English File is excellent, supplement with podcasts, videos, and real-life conversations to diversify your listening experience.

Focus on Understanding, Not Perfect Comprehension

Initially, aim to grasp the main ideas rather than understanding every word. Over time, your listening accuracy will improve.

Improve Your Vocabulary

A broader vocabulary enables you to recognize more words during listening tasks. Use vocabulary lists from English File and other sources.

Develop Listening Strategies

- Predict Content: Think about what you expect to hear based on the title or context.
- Identify Keywords: Focus on nouns, verbs, and question words.
- Use Context for Inference: Guess meanings of unknown words from the context.

Common Challenges and How to Overcome Them

Fast Speech and Accents

Native speakers often speak quickly and with diverse accents. To adapt:

- Listen to slow recordings initially.
- Gradually increase speed.
- Expose yourself to different accents via online videos and podcasts.

Difficulty with Vocabulary

Build your vocabulary systematically:

- Keep a vocabulary journal.
- Review new words regularly.
- Use them in speaking and writing.

Difficulty Following Longer Conversations

Break down longer audio clips into smaller sections.

Practice summarizing each part before moving on.

Additional Resources to Complement English File Elementary Listening

- **Podcasts:** Listen to beginner-friendly English podcasts like "ESL Pod" or "The English We Speak".
- **Videos:** Watch YouTube channels such as "BBC Learning English" or "English Addict" for visual and auditory learning.
- **Language Apps:** Use apps like Duolingo, Babbel, or LingQ for interactive listening exercises.
- **Conversation Partners:** Practice with native speakers through language exchange platforms like Tandem or HelloTalk.

Conclusion: Making the Most of Your English File Elementary Listening Practice

Mastering listening skills at the elementary level is a gradual process that requires patience, consistency, and active engagement. The "English File Elementary Listening" resources offer a structured and authentic way to develop these skills effectively. By employing strategic listening techniques, diversifying your materials, and practicing regularly, you will significantly improve your comprehension and confidence in understanding spoken English.

Remember that every learner progresses at their own pace. Celebrate small victories along the way,

such as understanding a full dialogue or catching new vocabulary. With dedication and the right resources, you will lay a solid foundation for your journey towards fluency in English.

Start today by integrating English File Elementary Listening activities into your routine and witness your listening skills grow steadily over time!

English File Elementary Listening: An In-Depth Review and Analysis

In the realm of language acquisition, listening comprehension remains a pivotal skill for learners striving toward fluency. Among various educational resources, English File Elementary Listening has garnered considerable attention from educators, students, and curriculum developers alike. This article aims to provide a comprehensive, investigative review of the listening components within the English File Elementary course, examining its design, pedagogical approach, effectiveness, strengths, and areas for improvement.

Introduction to English File Elementary Listening

The English File series, developed by Oxford University Press, is renowned globally for its communicative methodology and engaging content. The Elementary level specifically targets beginner learners, typically those with A1-A2 proficiency according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). The listening modules within this level serve as foundational tools to build learners' confidence and basic comprehension skills.

Key features of the listening component include:

- Authentic and semi-authentic audio recordings
- Varied accents and speech styles
- Structured activities designed to develop different listening skills
- Integration with speaking, reading, and writing tasks

Design and Structure of Listening Activities

Types of Listening Exercises

The English File Elementary Listening section comprises diverse activities aimed at developing a range of listening skills:

- Pre-listening tasks: These activate prior knowledge and set context (e.g., vocabulary preview, predictions).

- While-listening tasks: Focused on comprehension, these may include multiple-choice questions, fill-in-the-blanks, matching exercises, and true/false questions.
- Post-listening tasks: Encourage reflection, discussion, or application of new language (e.g., role-plays, writing summaries).

Common activity formats include:

- Listening for specific information
- Listening for gist
- Listening for detailed understanding
- Identifying main ideas and supporting details
- Recognizing intonation, stress, and pronunciation differences

Authenticity and Speech Variety

One of the hallmarks of the English File series is its emphasis on authentic materials. For elementary learners, this means exposure to real-world speech, such as conversations, announcements, and short dialogues, often recorded by native speakers or with regional accents. This variety prepares students for real-life communication and helps develop adaptability to different speaking styles.

Pedagogical Approach and Methodology

Communicative Methodology

The core philosophy behind English File is communicative language teaching (CLT). Listening activities are designed not merely for comprehension but to facilitate meaningful communication. For example, students listen to dialogues and then role-play similar interactions, reinforcing both receptive and productive skills.

Scaffolding and Support

To cater to elementary learners, the course employs scaffolding strategies:

- Gradual increase in difficulty
- Repetition of key vocabulary and phrases
- Visual aids and transcripts
- Clear instructions and exemplars

This approach ensures learners are not overwhelmed and can build confidence incrementally.

Integration with Other Skills

Listening is integrated with speaking activities, enabling learners to use their understanding actively. For example, after listening to a conversation about daily routines, students might be prompted to describe their own routines or ask questions about their classmates' habits.

Effectiveness of the Listening Components

Strengths

- Authentic Content Exposure: Students are introduced to natural speech patterns, idiomatic expressions, and pronunciation nuances early on.
- Variety of Accents: Incorporating different accents (e.g., British, American, Australian) prepares learners for diverse real-world interactions.
- Structured Progression: The activities follow a logical progression, ensuring steady development of skills.
- Multilevel Support: Transcripts, vocabulary lists, and notes are provided to aid comprehension.
- Integration with Practice: The design encourages active listening, which is proven to enhance retention and understanding.

Limitations and Challenges

- Limited Focus on Difficult Listening Tasks: At the elementary level, activities tend to focus on straightforward comprehension, which might not sufficiently challenge students or prepare them for more complex listening situations.
- Dependence on Transcripts: While helpful, over-reliance on transcripts can reduce the development of genuine listening skills.
- Audio Quality Variability: Some recordings may lack clarity or have background noise, potentially hindering comprehension.
- Limited Exposure to Different Contexts: Many listening tasks revolve around familiar topics (e.g., daily routines, introductions), which may limit exposure to broader vocabulary and situations.

Practical Applications and Classroom Use

Educators utilizing English File Elementary Listening report that its design facilitates a balanced classroom experience. The materials are flexible and adaptable to various teaching contexts, from traditional classrooms to online platforms.

Best practices for effective implementation include:

- Pre-teaching key vocabulary before listening
- Encouraging students to listen multiple times
- Using audio scripts for follow-up activities
- Incorporating peer discussions to deepen understanding
- Combining listening tasks with visual aids or realia

Furthermore, the series' digital resources, including downloadable audio files and interactive exercises, enhance accessibility and engagement, especially in hybrid or fully online learning environments.

Comparative Analysis with Other Elementary Listening Resources

When compared to similar offerings, such as New English File, Headway Elementary, or Cambridge English Resources, English File Elementary Listening holds its own in terms of authenticity and pedagogical design but can be differentiated in the following ways:

Strengths:

- Rich variety of accents and natural speech
- Strong emphasis on communication
- Well-structured scaffolded activities

Areas for improvement:

- Incorporation of more challenging listening tasks to foster resilience
- More diverse contextual themes beyond everyday situations
- Enhanced focus on listening strategies (e.g., predicting, inferencing)

Recommendations for Learners and Educators

For learners:

- Engage actively with audio materials multiple times
- Use transcripts to verify understanding but avoid passive reliance
- Practice note-taking during listening exercises

- Supplement with authentic listening sources (e.g., podcasts, videos)

For educators:

- Pre-teach vocabulary and context to facilitate comprehension
- Incorporate a variety of listening activities beyond the textbook
- Foster a supportive environment where mistakes are viewed as learning opportunities
- Use technology to diversify listening sources and formats

Conclusion: The Role and Future of English File Elementary Listening

The English File Elementary Listening component represents a well-crafted, pedagogically sound resource that effectively supports beginner learners in developing foundational listening skills. Its authentic materials, structured activities, and integration within a communicative framework contribute to a positive learning experience.

However, to adapt to the evolving needs of learners and the increasing diversity of listening contexts, future iterations could benefit from including more varied and challenging listening tasks, emphasizing strategic listening skills, and expanding thematic content.

In sum, English File Elementary Listening remains a valuable cornerstone in the beginner's toolkit, offering a solid platform from which learners can embark on their journey toward fluent, confident communication.

References

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QuestionAnswer What are some effective strategies to improve listening skills in English File Elementary? Practicing regularly with the listening exercises in English File Elementary, focusing on understanding main ideas, and listening multiple times can significantly enhance your listening skills. How can I effectively prepare for the listening activities in English File Elementary? Before listening, read any questions or prompts, familiarize yourself with vocabulary, and listen without looking at the

answers to develop better comprehension. What types of listening exercises are included in English File Elementary? The course features dialogues, monologues, interviews, and short conversations designed to develop different listening skills suitable for elementary learners. How can I improve my understanding of spoken English in English File Elementary? Focus on context clues, practice active listening by taking notes, and repeat listening exercises to become more familiar with different accents and speeds. Are there online resources or audio files available for practicing English File Elementary listening exercises? Yes, students can access audio files and supplementary online resources through the English File website or accompanying app to practice listening anytime.

Related keywords: English File Elementary, listening practice, language learning, ESL listening exercises, beginner English, audio lessons, English comprehension, elementary ESL, listening skills, English audio files

the lost art of listening second edition how lear

the lost art of listening second edition how lear: Rediscovering the Power of Genuine Connection

In an era dominated by instant communication and digital distractions, the art of listening has become a rarity rather than a common practice. The phrase **the lost art of listening second edition how lear** encapsulates a critical exploration into how listening profoundly impacts our relationships, personal growth, and professional success. This article delves into the insights offered by the second edition of "The Lost Art of Listening," authored by Michael P. Nichols, and explores actionable strategies to enhance your listening skills, fostering deeper understanding and connection in all areas of life.

Understanding the Significance of Listening

Why Listening Matters

Listening is more than simply hearing words; it is an active process that requires focus, empathy, and patience. Effective listening:

- Builds trust and rapport
- Reduces misunderstandings and conflicts
- Enhances problem-solving abilities
- Facilitates emotional intimacy

- Promotes personal and professional growth

Despite these benefits, many individuals struggle to listen attentively due to various barriers, including distractions, preconceived notions, or emotional reactions.

The Evolution of Listening: From Past to Present

Historically, listening was considered a vital skill in interpersonal communication. However, the advent of technology and the fast-paced nature of modern life have shifted focus towards speaking and multitasking, often at the expense of genuine listening. The second edition of "The Lost Art of Listening" revisits these issues and emphasizes the importance of reclaiming this essential skill.

Key Concepts from the Second Edition

1. The Different Types of Listening

Understanding the various forms of listening helps us become more conscious of our habits. These include:

- Passive Listening: Hearing words without processing or engagement.
- Active Listening: Fully concentrating, understanding, responding, and remembering what is being said.
- Reflective Listening: Paraphrasing or summarizing to ensure understanding.
- Empathic Listening: Sensing the speaker's feelings and perspectives.

The second edition underscores the importance of moving beyond passive listening to develop active and empathic listening skills.

2. Barriers to Effective Listening

Several obstacles hinder our ability to listen attentively, such as:

- Distractions: External noise, multitasking, or internal preoccupations.
- Preconceived Notions: Judging or assuming before fully understanding.
- Emotional Reactions: Defensive responses or emotional triggers.
- Fatigue or Stress: Physical or mental exhaustion impairing focus.

Recognizing these barriers is the first step toward overcoming them.

3. The Role of Empathy in Listening

Empathy is at the core of meaningful listening. It involves:

- Fully immersing oneself in the speaker's experience
- Avoiding judgments or interruptions
- Validating feelings and perspectives

The second edition emphasizes that empathetic listening fosters trust and deepens relationships.

Strategies to Reclaim the Lost Art of Listening

1. Cultivate Mindfulness

Mindfulness enhances your ability to stay present during conversations. Tips include:

- Paying close attention to your surroundings and internal thoughts
- Noticing when your mind drifts and gently refocusing
- Practicing meditation to improve concentration

2. Practice Active and Reflective Listening

Active listening involves:

- Nodding or using verbal affirmations like "I see" or "Go on"
- Paraphrasing what the speaker says, e.g., "What I hear you saying is..."
- Asking open-ended questions to encourage elaboration

Reflective listening ensures understanding and demonstrates genuine interest.

3. Develop Empathy

To listen empathically:

- Suspend judgment
- Recognize and validate emotions
- Imagine yourself in the speaker's position

Exercises to build empathy include role-playing and journaling about others' experiences.

4. Reduce Distractions

Create an environment conducive to listening by:

- Turning off notifications and electronic devices
- Choosing a quiet, comfortable space
- Giving full attention without multitasking

5. Practice Patience and Silence

Allow pauses in conversation to give space for reflection. Silence can encourage the speaker to share more deeply and reveals your attentiveness.

Applying Listening Skills in Different Contexts

1. Personal Relationships

Effective listening nurtures intimacy and understanding. To improve your personal connections:

- Make eye contact
- Listen without interrupting
- Show genuine interest in your loved ones' feelings and thoughts

2. Professional Settings

In the workplace, listening enhances collaboration and leadership:

- Hold meetings with active listening protocols
- Provide undivided attention during discussions
- Clarify expectations and feedback through reflective listening

3. Conflict Resolution

Listening can de-escalate conflicts:

- Acknowledge the other person's feelings
- Restate their concerns to confirm understanding
- Seek mutually acceptable solutions

The Benefits of Mastering the Art of Listening

Mastering listening skills yields numerous advantages:

- Stronger personal relationships
- Increased emotional intelligence
- Better conflict management
- Greater empathy and compassion
- Enhanced learning and knowledge acquisition

Furthermore, it fosters a culture of respect and openness in communities and organizations.

Conclusion: Reclaiming the Lost Art

The second edition of "The Lost Art of Listening" serves as a vital reminder of the importance of developing and nurturing our listening abilities. In a world where everyone is eager to be heard, truly listening can set us apart, enabling us to connect more deeply, understand more profoundly, and respond more thoughtfully. By actively cultivating mindfulness, empathy, and patience, we can reclaim this invaluable skill and transform our interactions into meaningful exchanges that enrich our lives and those around us.

Remember, listening is not just a passive activity; it is a deliberate act of love, respect, and curiosity. Embrace the challenge to become a better listener today, and experience the profound impact it can have on your personal and professional relationships.

The Lost Art of Listening Second Edition: How Lear Reclaims a Fundamental Human Skill

In an era dominated by rapid information exchange, constant notifications, and the relentless pace of digital communication, the art of listening has become increasingly marginalized. The phrase "the lost art of listening second edition: how Lear" encapsulates a critical reevaluation of a skill that is fundamental to human connection, understanding, and personal growth. This comprehensive review explores the core themes of the book, its relevance in contemporary society, and the ways in which it offers a blueprint for reclaiming genuine listening in our daily lives.

Introduction: Rediscovering an Essential Human Skill

Listening is often regarded as a passive activity, overshadowed by the more glamorous acts of speaking or sharing. Yet, as the authors of *The Lost Art of Listening Second Edition* argue, listening is an active, deliberate process crucial for effective communication, empathy, and conflict resolution. The second edition builds upon the foundations laid in the original work, emphasizing how modern societal shifts have further eroded this skill.

The book's core premise is that listening is not merely hearing words, but engaging fully with another person's thoughts, emotions, and intentions. Lear, the central figure of the analysis, exemplifies the transformative power of attentive listening, illustrating how this skill can foster understanding and healing.

The Historical Context and Evolution of Listening

Listening Through the Ages

Historically, listening was regarded as a virtue, integral to oral traditions, storytelling, and spiritual practices. In many indigenous cultures, listening was an active ritual—an act of respect and community-building. Conversely, the advent of written language, printing presses, and eventually mass media shifted focus from interpersonal listening to one-way communication.

The Digital Disruption

The rise of digital communication platforms—social media, instant messaging, and video conferencing—has transformed how we listen. The immediacy and fragmentation of information often encourage superficial engagement, where listening becomes a passive or distracted activity. Notifications, multitasking, and information overload further diminish our capacity for deep, attentive listening.

The Core Principles of Listening in *The Lost Art of Listening Second Edition*

The book emphasizes several foundational principles that underpin effective listening:

- Presence: Being fully attentive to the speaker without distractions.
- Empathy: Understanding and sharing the feelings behind the words.
- Patience: Allowing the speaker to express themselves fully without interruption.
- Non-judgment: Listening without immediate evaluation or criticism.
- Reflection: Clarifying and summarizing to ensure understanding.

Lear's methodology advocates for cultivating these qualities through deliberate practice,

mindfulness, and emotional regulation.

The Role of Lear in Reclaiming Listening

The figure of Lear—drawing parallels to Shakespeare’s tragic king—serves as a metaphor for the human condition. Lear’s downfall, rooted in poor listening and lack of understanding, underscores the importance of attentive engagement. The book explores how Lear’s failure to listen to his daughters’ true intentions exemplifies what happens when listening is neglected.

Lear’s journey from hubris to humility mirrors the process individuals must undergo to restore this vital skill. The narrative underscores that listening is an active choice that requires humility, openness, and vulnerability.

Challenges to Effective Listening in Modern Society

The Distraction Epidemic

Smartphones and digital devices fragment attention spans, making sustained listening difficult. Multitasking during conversations leads to superficial engagement, misinterpretations, and emotional disconnect.

Preconceived Notions and Cognitive Biases

Prejudgments, stereotypes, and biases often interfere with genuine listening. People tend to listen selectively, hearing only what confirms their existing beliefs.

Emotional Barriers

Fear, defensiveness, or emotional reactivity can hinder open listening. When individuals feel threatened or misunderstood, they may tune out or respond defensively.

Cultural and Societal Norms

In some cultures, listening is undervalued compared to speaking or asserting authority. Power dynamics can also suppress honest, empathetic listening in hierarchical settings.

Strategies for Relearning and Practicing Artful Listening

The second edition offers practical techniques for developing listening skills:

- Mindfulness Meditation: Enhances present-moment awareness, reducing distractions.
- Active Listening Exercises: Such as paraphrasing, summarizing, and asking open-ended questions.
- Creating Listening Environments: Designating 'quiet zones' free from interruptions.
- Reflective Journaling: Recording listening experiences to identify patterns and growth areas.
- Empathy Development: Engaging in perspective-taking activities.

Furthermore, the book advocates for integrating listening exercises into daily routines, workplaces, and educational settings to foster a culture that values and practices attentive listening.

The Impact of Effective Listening

When practiced earnestly, effective listening leads to numerous benefits:

- Enhanced Relationships: Deeper connection with partners, family, and colleagues.
- Conflict Resolution: Understanding underlying issues reduces hostility and promotes cooperation.
- Personal Growth: Self-awareness increases as one becomes more attuned to others' perspectives.
- Community Building: Strengthens social cohesion and trust.
- Professional Success: Improves leadership, negotiation, and teamwork skills.

The authors provide compelling case studies illustrating these outcomes, reinforcing that listening is an essential professional and personal competency.

Critical Perspectives and Limitations

While *The Lost Art of Listening Second Edition* offers valuable insights, some critics argue that its principles may be idealistic or challenging to implement consistently amid societal pressures. The emphasis on mindfulness and patience may be difficult for individuals in fast-paced environments or those dealing with trauma.

Additionally, the book could benefit from integrating more diverse cultural perspectives on listening, recognizing that communication norms vary globally. Nonetheless, its core message remains universally applicable.

Conclusion: Reclaiming Humanity Through Listening

In a world where noise and haste threaten to drown out genuine human connection, *The Lost Art of Listening Second Edition* serves as a vital reminder of the transformative power of attentive

presence. Lear's insights demonstrate that listening is not a passive act but an active, courageous choice—one that fosters understanding, healing, and shared humanity.

Reclaiming this skill requires conscious effort and societal support, but the rewards—deeper relationships, conflict resolution, and personal fulfillment—are well worth the effort. As we navigate the complexities of modern life, rediscovering the lost art of listening may be the most profound act of rebellion—and the most necessary step toward a more empathetic and connected world.

Question What are the main themes of 'The Lost Art of Listening, Second Edition' by Michael P. Nichols? The book emphasizes the importance of truly listening to others, understanding the barriers to effective listening, and developing skills to foster deeper connections and better communication. How does the second edition of 'The Lost Art of Listening' differ from the first? The second edition includes updated research, new insights into the psychology of listening, and practical techniques to enhance listening skills in various contexts. Why is active listening considered a vital skill in personal and professional relationships? Active listening helps to build trust, reduce misunderstandings, and create stronger, more empathetic connections with others. What are common barriers to effective listening discussed in the book? Barriers include distractions, prejudgments, emotional reactions, and the tendency to focus on fixing problems rather than truly understanding. Can the techniques from 'The Lost Art of Listening' be applied in conflict resolution? Yes, the book provides strategies that help de-escalate conflicts by fostering understanding and encouraging open, empathetic dialogue. How does the book address listening in the digital age? It highlights challenges posed by technology, such as multitasking and superficial interactions, and offers tips for mindful, focused listening in a digital world. What role does empathy play in effective listening according to Nichols? Empathy is central; it involves truly trying to understand the speaker's feelings and perspectives, which enhances communication and connection. Are there practical exercises included in the second edition to improve listening skills? Yes, the book offers various exercises and scenarios to practice active listening and overcome common listening barriers. Why is listening considered a 'lost art,' and how does the book propose to revive it? Listening is called a 'lost art' because many people overlook its importance amidst busy lives. The book advocates for mindful practice, patience, and intentional engagement to revive this essential skill.

Related keywords: listening skills, active listening, communication skills, effective listening, auditory skills, interpersonal communication, listening techniques, sound perception, listening comprehension, communication improvement

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