

## Strategies to Assist With Listening Comprehension

- 1 . Make sure that the student is "tuned in" before you speak. Call the student by name and have him/her look you in the face while you speak.
- 2 . Pair "listening" with other activities such as "watching". For example, point in the direction you want the student to go, use videos rather than audio tapes, illustrate stories, etc..
- 3 . Simplify your vocabulary when you speak to the student.
- 4 . Check often for understanding, have the student repeat instructions back to you, and keep instructions brief.
- 5 . Increase the student's vocabulary by introducing several new vocabulary words per day. Encourage the student to use those new words in daily language.
- 6 . Sit the student close to the teacher so that he/she can more easily focus in on what's being said.
- 7 . Engage the student in casual conversation about topics that are interesting.
- 8 . Pause often when speaking to the student so that he/she has ample time to grasp your meaning.
- 9 . If the student seems not to understand you, raising your voice or repeating yourself will only add to his/her frustration. Try repeating what you said, but say it in a different way.
- 10 . Speak clearly and calmly to the student. Students are more likely to confuse emotionally laden commands.
- 11 . Use visual aids such as pictures, gestures, chalkboards, overhead projectors, etc. to supplement lectures. Remember to appeal to more than one of the student's senses at all times.
- 12 . Give the student an outline or study guide that parallels material presented verbally so that he/she can refer to it later.
- 13 . Have an extra set of class notes made for the student so that he/she can concentrate on listening rather than writing.
- 14 . Avoid using language that is sarcastic, idiomatic, rhetorical, or symbolic.
- 15 . Be careful with humor. The student may not "get" jokes (such as "puns") that are based on complex language.