

CHAPTER 4 · KEEPING IT FLOWING

LISTENING *people notice*

Good listeners aren't silent. They show they're listening, out loud.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Interactive version: attenglish.com/talk/4

PHRASE BOX SAY IT

KEEP GOING

Mm-hmm.
Right.
I see.

SHOW INTEREST

Really?
Oh, wow.
That's brilliant!

CHECK UNDERSTANDING

So you mean...?
Sorry, did you say Tuesday?
Let me check I've got this right...

LISTENING SIGNALS SORT

English speakers use small words to show they're listening. Each one does a different job. Sort them. Tick one column for each.

	Keep going	Interest	Check
Mm-hmm.			
Really?			
So you mean...?			
Right.			
Oh, wow.			
Sorry, did you say Tuesday?			
I see.			
No way! (<i>casual</i>)			
Let me check I've got this right...			

SPOT THE GOOD LISTENER CHOOSE

Four people tell you something. Which reply shows you're really listening? Circle your answer.

1. "I've been so busy this week. My daughter's been ill and work's been crazy."

☐ a) OK.

☐ b) Oh no, that sounds exhausting. Is she feeling better now?

☐ c) I'm busy too.

2. "We finally booked our holiday. We're going to Crete in June!"

☐ a) Crete? Lovely! Have you been before?

☐ b) I don't like hot places.

☐ c) Mm.

3. "The meeting's moved, it's at half two on Thursday now, in room four."

☐ a) Fine.

☐ b) Sorry, so that's half past two on Thursday, room four?

☐ c) Why?

4. "I've just started learning to play the guitar. It's harder than I thought."

☐ a) I can play the piano.

☐ b) Guitar is easy.

☐ c) Ah, I bet. What made you want to learn?

SAY IT BACK **BUILD**

Paraphrasing means saying back the main idea in your own words. Add the feeling, and people feel heard.

The main idea, in your words

How they feel

Put it together and write your line

LISTEN AND WRITE **PLAY**

Ask a friend to read these to you, or use the online lesson for British audio. Write what you hear.

SAY IT ALOUD **SAY IT**

Practise your paraphrase and a few signals until they feel natural. Tick a box each time you say it aloud.

Line	Said it
So the builders next door start at seven every morning? That sounds exhausting.	☐ ☐ ☐
Mm-hmm. Really? Oh no!	☐ ☐ ☐
My own line:	☐ ☐ ☐

Focus: Sound genuinely interested. Your tone matters more than your words.

BEFORE YOU MOVE ON **REFLECT**

In your first language, how do people show they're listening?

Which listening signals will you try this week?

Think of a time someone really listened to you. What did they do?

WHAT TO REMEMBER

- ☐ Silence can sound like boredom in English. Make small noises.
- ☐ Use “Mm-hmm” and “Right” to keep people talking.
- ☐ Paraphrase: say back the main idea in your own words.
- ☐ Name the feeling: “That sounds stressful.”
- ☐ Checking isn't rude. It shows you care about getting it right.