



Listening and Speaking:

Tips on Studying & Test-Taking

Practice listening and speaking outside the classroom as much as possible.

- **Listen to the radio**, especially the news as they often repeat stories. This review can improve your comprehension and increase your vocabulary.
- **Watch TV or a DVD** with friends, family & classmates and talk about it.
- **Speak with your classmates in English only**, both in and out of class. Find a conversation partner from your class with a different first language and practice. It's important to be able to understand foreign accents, especially in Canada – not just the "perfect" English of your instructors.
- **Go to the Learning Centres** and use listening materials to improve & test your understanding.
- **Sign up at the Learning Centre tutor's desk** and practice your speaking. Bring a topic or picture to discuss.
- **Join a class, group or club** to meet new people and practise your speaking.

Practice pronunciation:

Pronunciation is important. English is a **stress-based language**. Important information is stressed by the speaker. Practice stress and linking to help you with your speaking and listening skills.

- **Go to the Learning Centre** and use listening kits on pronunciation.
- **Listen to books on tape or CD** as models for pronunciation.
- **Sign up at the Learning Centre tutor's desk** for pronunciation practice.
- **Ask the tutor** about computer programs on pronunciation for self-study.
- **Learn songs in English.**

Before the test:

- **Find out about the test format** (length, kind of questions, passing mark) from your instructor **before** the final exam.
- **Practice listening and speaking under test conditions.** For example, if you have 15 seconds to answer a listening question, practice this. If you need to talk about a picture, practice that. If you need to have a conversation, practice with a classmate or a tutor.