How to Improve Your Listening Comprehension

- **Practice** listening as much as possible outside the classroom: listen to the radio—especially the news, watch TV or a DVD, borrow a listening kit from the library, or listen to a book on tape.

- The **Learning Centres** have lots of listening materials, and the tutors are available to recommend listening materials at your level and practice speaking with you.

- Learn about pronunciation. English is a stress-based language. We communicate important information to the listener through stress. Get information on **stress** and **linking** to help your speaking and listening skills. The Learning Centre has resources on these topics.

- Don’t try to understand every word. You need to listen for **key words** and **phrases** such as “consider the following information…”,” to summarize…”,”most importantly …”, or “ the main point is …”

- Focus on the words you understand and take a **guess** at the others.

- You will not understand every word, so try to understand the **context** and make a guess. (**Context** = situation, location, people, topic, etc.)

- **Anticipate** the information/conversation. If a man and a woman are in a restaurant – what might they be talking about?

- **Think** about the topic beforehand if possible. Write down a question about the topic. This will help you focus your listening. You want to **listen with a purpose**.

- What do you already know about the topic? Apply your **background** knowledge to the listening situation or topic.

- **Practice. Practice. Practice.** The more you practice your listening skills, the faster you will improve.