



# Strategies For Improving Comprehension Skills Listening

## Secondary School

### Challenges

Use this activity to review vocabulary and grammar and give students listening practice. Create a series of level-appropriate challenge cards which you can add to after you introduce new language. At the beginning or end of each lesson, hold a few challenges, calling on different students each time to draw a challenge from the pack and try to answer the question/do the task. Keep track of how many challenges each student succeeds in doing on a chart, and give a prize to the most successful student at the end of the camp. Example challenges:

- *Name three capital cities.*
- *What time do you...?*
- *What do you usually do on Saturday?*
- *What did you do last weekend?*
- *Ask me a question.*

### Current News

Choose a news clip (video or listening track), and play it for your class. After listening, students in small groups create a set number of questions based on the facts of the clip. Then have groups swap and answer their new set of questions. In

the discussion phase, groups can earn a point for each correct question but only if the question hasn't already been asked by another group.

### Graphic Organizers

There are many different types of graphic organizers which you can find online or create, depending on the topic and listening (and reading) skills students need to practice. They are an effective tool for assessing comprehension as well as aids to memory.

### Information Relay

Choose a level-appropriate text, and prepare a set of questions about the text. Write these questions on the board where all of the students can read them before the activity starts. Then divide the students into teams and designate one person in each team to be the writer. Have the teams line up behind their writer. Opposite them paste a copy of the text. In relay fashion, one student from each team runs to read the text and report back some of the information in order to answer the questions; the writer can specify which questions have not been answered yet as needed. The first



time to correctly answer all of the questions wins.