

Study Listening
Understanding Lectures
and Talks in English

Student's Book

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Unit 11 Listing

In Unit 7 you heard speakers marking the chains of reference that we have to follow in order to make sense of spoken language, for example, ‘one of the big *advantages...* a large supply of *cheap labour...* *that* is going to be meaningless...’.

One particular method that speakers use to make their meaning clear is to group related ideas in a list. If we are told, for instance, that ‘developing countries used to have *two main advantages* over advanced countries’, then we are mentally prepared to expect and recognise the advantages when they are mentioned.

Discussion point 1

In *speech* we have to present a group of ideas in the form of a list, because we can only mention them one at a time.

What about in *writing*? What alternatives does a writer have? How can he use the printed page to show the relationship between ideas in a group?

Discuss this point with another student.

Listening exercise 1

Look back to the skeleton of the ‘Development and aid’ talk in Unit 1 (page 2). For this exercise, you will need to listen again to the skeleton recording; it is the first recording on Cassette 1, side 1.

Read the text. Listen to the cassette. Underline the phrases used to divide the various topics into sections. Compare/check your answers.

Discussion point 2

Fill in your suggestions for these sets of list-markers. Compare your answers with those of other students.

the first				
	two			last
		thirdly	
first	then			finally
	another			
		c		

Speakers are not limited to one set of those markers; for example, you may hear a list such as ‘firstly... second... another... four...’, etc.

Listening exercise 2

(This and all the other exercises in this unit are on Cassette 2.)

In each of these three extracts you will hear *an introductory phrase* (such as ‘four possible solutions’) followed by *a chain of list markers* (e.g. ‘first... second... next...’, etc.).

Listen to each extract. Write in the phrases used.

	<i>Introductory phrase</i>	<i>List markers</i>
1 Alcohol production		
2 Industrial relations		
3 Alcohol production		

Listening exercise 3

Listen again to the exercise 2 extracts. Note down the points the speaker lists. Compare/check your notes after each extract.

- 1 Alcohol production: the decision to use sugar as a feedstock.

Notes:

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- 2 Industrial relations: State activity in industrial relations.
(*statutory*: legal; *statute*: law)

Notes:

- 3 Alcohol production: the economic considerations.

Notes:

Listening exercise 4

Not every list of ideas is marked by the type of phrases that you listened for in exercise 2. In each of these two extracts the speaker mentions various aspects of the topic under discussion, without using a chain of marker phrases. Listen to the cassette. Make a note of the items mentioned.

- 1 Some of the factors in the rising standard of health.

Notes:

2 A number of different aspects of the green revolution in agriculture.

Notes:

Listening exercise 5

So far you have heard extracts containing groups of items of *equal importance*. But a speaker may want to present a number of ideas *in order of importance* (least important first and most important last, or vice versa). In the examples below, the size of the boxes on the right-hand side indicates the relative importance of the items in the list:

- 1 'so we have three factors to bear in mind... *firstly* (X)..., *secondly* (Y)..., but by far the *most important* is (Z).'

X

Z

- 2 'three issues to look at: the *crucial* one (X)..., a *second* would be (Y)..., and *last and least* (Z).'

X

Z

- 3 A simple list of equally important elements would be: X Z

Listen carefully to each extract. Try to concentrate on the way the speaker shows the relative importance of the items in the list. Do not make notes. Instead, draw boxes round the numbers given below, to represent the relative importance of each idea.

- 1 The introduction to the 'Development and aid' seminar.

1 2 3 4

- 2 Six propositions relating to industrial relations. (You only need to hear the first one!)

1 2 3 4 5 6

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Listening exercise 6

PREDICTION

Before you listen to these final extracts, discuss the prediction questions below. Then go on to the listening/note-taking exercise.

1 Measures to prevent malaria.

What are the best ways to eliminate malaria from an area?

Which methods are used in your own country?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of each method?

Listen to the cassette. See if the speaker mentions your suggestions.

Notes:

2 Alcohol as an automobile fuel.

How can alcohol be used to drive cars?

Is it possible to use it *now* as a motor fuel?

What adaptations need to be made?

What are its advantages/disadvantages compared to petrol?

Notes:

POST-LISTENING DISCUSSION

The speaker ends by saying 'really it is a question of economics'. What do you think are going to be the principal factors that will decide whether alcohol is an economic alternative to existing automobile fuels? What are the prospects for the development and use of alcohol fuels based on plant materials in your own country?