

## Who is this for?

This leaflet is for anyone who wants to improve their comprehension of lectures and is willing to practise listening to lectures.

## Aim of this leaflet

The aim of this leaflet is to introduce you to materials useful for practicing listening to lectures and give some advice for improving the comprehension of your own lectures.

## Why improve your skill in listening to lectures?

Lectures are the main way of communicating knowledge at university, so it would be of great benefit if you can improve your ability to better understand lectures. Comprehending academic lectures in a second language is not an easy task, because it involves skills such as coping with the lecturer's speech characteristics (e.g. accent, speed, intonation, expressions), identifying the main ideas, and note-taking. However, it is possible to practice and improve these skills systematically using a wide range of resources in the Language Commons and also your own lectures as a resource.

## Other online materials

There are some useful websites that provide advice to students on listening to academic lectures.

1. Note taking, listening and participation at

<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~acskills/success/notes.html>

2. Listening and note taking in lectures at

<https://www.deakin.edu.au/students/studying/study-support/academic-skills/reading-and-note-taking>

## Techniques for learning

Apart from practicing using the books and their accompanying pre-recorded lectures, you can of course use your own lectures as 'practice' material. Here are some suggestions:

- Jot down notes of the main points of the lecture and compare this with the lecturer's handout to see what you have got or missed
- Compare and discuss your comprehension and notes with another student's

- Record the lecture using a voice recorder and check your comprehension and notes as you listen to it again (but do be courteous and ask the lecturer for permission before making the recording)
- Review your notes shortly after the lecture to help you to remember the contents better, annotating or highlighting any key points for easy revision

## Evaluating your progress

The key test would be to see whether you are actually understanding more in your lectures at UST than before you started practicing. Make a note of your progress, how much of the main points you managed to get, how well you have understood the lecture, and the difficulties you had, so that you can monitor your progress. If you use the practice exercises in the books mentioned above, check your notes and comprehension against the answer keys and see what progress you are making (all the books mentioned have answer keys).

## And now...

If you would like any help or advice, or just a chat about your progress, please get in touch

**- we are here to support your independent learning!** To contact us:

- Make an appointment to see an adviser. For details of advisers and their availability, please go to <https://ilang.cle.ust.hk/language-adviser-timetable/>.
- E-mail your questions to **iLANG** ([lcilang@ust.hk](mailto:lcilang@ust.hk)).
- Ask at the reception counter of the Language Commons — if the receptionist cannot help you directly, s/he will pass your query on to one of the advisers.

### **What else can you do?**

- Browse the many physical (<https://ilang.cle.ust.hk/language-commons/#resources>) and online materials (<https://ilang.cle.ust.hk/resources-listening/>) for Listening.
- Join a Listening activity or short course (<http://ilang.cle.ust.hk/listening/>).

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