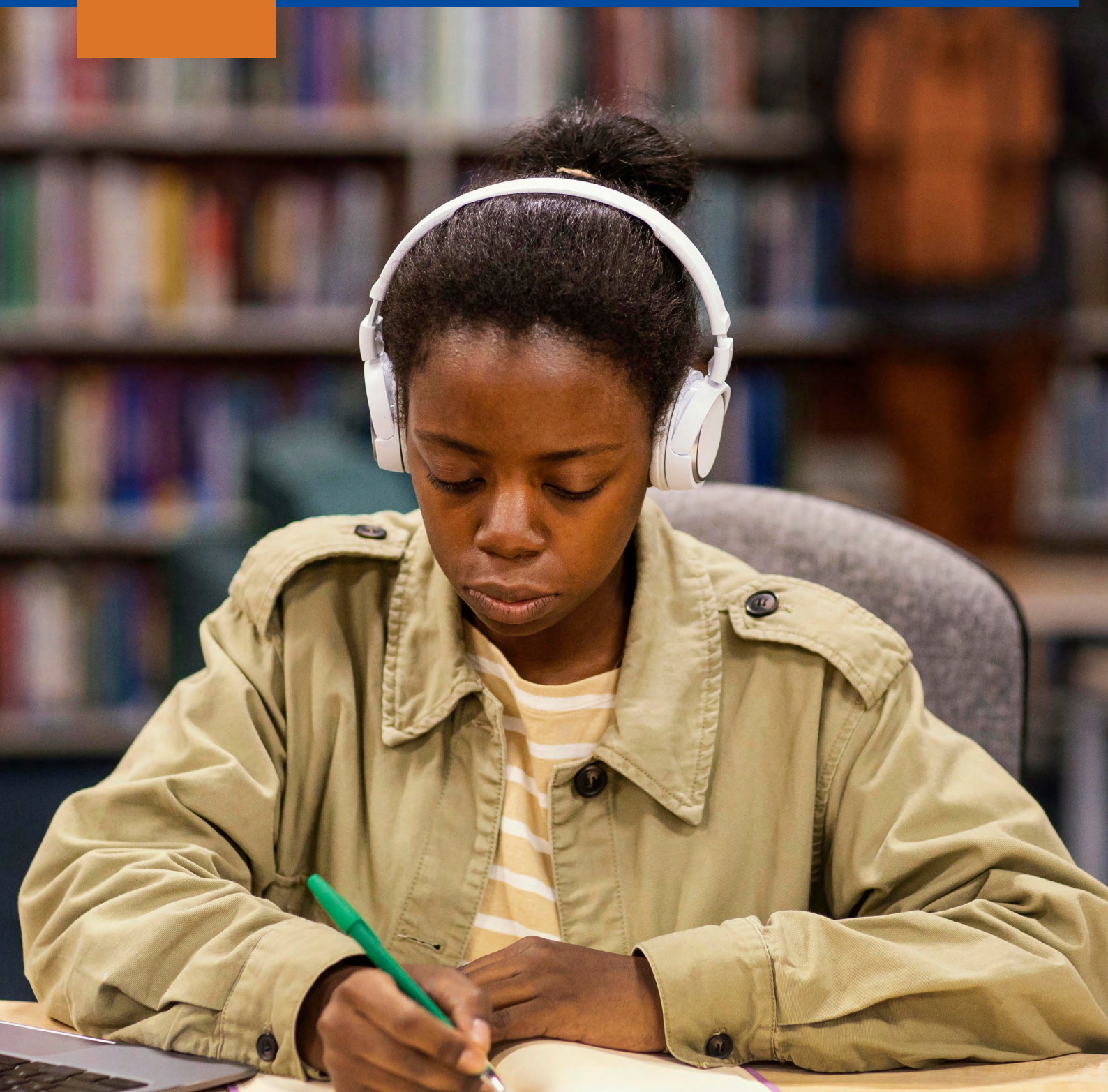


SECTION

6

# ORAL CONVERSATIONS



# ORAL LANGUAGE

## Listening Comprehension

### INTRODUCTION

Dear Learner, you are warmly welcome to this section of the Intervention English lesson. It is always a pleasure engaging you. In the last section, you learned how to use words and tenses correctly when speaking. In this section, you will learn about how to listen and participate in conversation. Also, the lesson in this section is planned to help you explore different listening techniques and their effectiveness in various contexts. The various activities in the lesson will additionally help you practice active listening skills, such as asking clarifying questions and summarising information in a given situation. It is important to note that your ability to listen actively or attentively will not only enhance your listening skills but also improve your overall communication and interaction with others. It promises to be a very interesting lesson. Ensure you follow the lesson carefully and perform all the self-assessment activities.

**By the end of the lesson, you as the student will be able to;**

Listening Attentively To Ask Clarifying Questions And Participate Effectively In Conversations.

#### Key Ideas:

- **Listening** involves the ability to pay attention to a message and understand (decode) it and respond to what is being said.
- **Active listening** is the process of listening attentively while someone else speaks.

### EFFECTIVE CONVERSATIONS

**Conversation** involves an oral exchange of feelings, thoughts, observations, ideas, or opinions between two or more people. This means that conversation comes with listening and talking between two or more people on a given topic. For you to engage in effective conversation, you have to develop your listening skills.

**Listening** is the act or process of receiving, making meaning from, and responding to spoken or nonverbal messages. In listening, a person hears what other people say and tries to make meaning of what is said. Listening involves more attention than hearing. You can hear many things but you only listen to the most important ones. When you listen, you need to make deliberate efforts not to just hear but also to understand what you hear. Therefore, active listening is very important when someone is speaking to you. You can only engage in active listening during a conversation when:

1. you avoid distractions or things that divide your attention
2. you pay attention to the body language (gestures) of the speaker
3. you give feedback after the message is received or understood

This means that when you are listening to a speaker's message, you do not have to divide your attention. You need to focus on the speaker and the message he or she is passing across, most especially the main idea or the key issue.

Now, read the conversational dialogue between Adjorkor and Kansake with your classmate. Make sure you pay attention to the main idea discussed in the conversation. You may do this with your friend at home.

**Adjorkor:** *All along, I have held the belief that visually impaired people are witches or wizards. They act in ways that beat my imagination.*

**Kansake:** *Have you discovered anything new about them?*

**Adjorkor:** *Oh yes! Until you get to the forest, you may think all the trees there are together from afar. I have a visually impaired friend in my school now. He's Larbi and has taught me a lot of things that used to bother me about the physically challenged.*

**Kansake:** *Interesting! You have a visually impaired friend? Times change indeed! You have always maintained a calm posture about the physically challenged. Some find it difficult mingling with them.*

**Adjorkor:** *You are absolutely right. But people do change when they have the right information. Count me one of such people. Larbi does everything by himself with just little support from me. He washes his clothes, hangs and unhang them by himself. He wouldn't let you do these things for him, because he loves the motions. The beauty of it all is how he uses sound and smell to perceive my presence. It's just amazing!*

**Kansake:** *God is wonderful! Though our visually and hearing-impaired brothers and sisters have underlying conditions, He has a way of helping them naturally through their other senses. Some can dance, sing and play musical instruments with ease. Some study to become teachers, doctors and lawyers. I wouldn't be surprised we may have one of them as President soon.*

**Adjorkor:** *Truly, God makes everything possible for us all. We have to learn to accept people no matter their situations or conditions in life. Every child is a gift from God and we all need to understand that.*

**Kansake:** *That is true. We have to make friends with everyone irrespective of their status, background, or ethnicity. We are all God's favourites, no discrimination. We just have to embrace people we meet in life on equal terms.*

**Adjorkor:** *Sure! We just have to be ambassadors of change. It is said that 'A stitch in time, saves nine'. In our own small way, we can help bring a change in our society towards our physically challenged brothers and sisters.*

**Kansake:** *Oh yes! We need an all-inclusive society. One that creates equal access and opportunities for everybody without discrimination.*

Good work done! Perform the activities below.

### Activity 6.1

1. Identify and discuss the main idea(s) of the conversational dialogue between Adjorkor and Kansake.
2. Plan an interview with your classmate on the topic of **respect**. Use the questions below as a guide.
  - i. What is respect?
  - ii. Who are the people we should respect in society?
  - iii. Why do we have to respect at all?
  - iv. What are some of the ways to show respect to people?
  - v. Should I respect someone who disrespects me? Why?

Good attempt! Now, you are going to learn some ways you can develop your listening skills.

## Ways to Develop your Listening Skills

My dearest learner, it is good to understand that the importance of listening goes beyond school or academic environment. Your ability to practise good communication in your day-to-day interactions with your friends, family members and significant people in society is very important. To achieve this, you have to be a good listener. Therefore, in listening, do not just hear but make sure you make meaning of what you hear. To become a good listener, follow the steps below:

1. Be alert or attentive (do not divide your attention)
2. Maintain eye contact with the speaker
3. Pay attention to body language and facial expression of the speaker where necessary
4. Make a mental image of what the speaker is saying
5. Avoid interruption- give people time to fully express themselves
6. Don't jump into conclusion
7. Summarise the key ideas mentally
8. Provide feedback- provide responses and ask clarifying questions at the right time

Always, remember that it is important to listen first before asking questions or seeking clarifications. In the classroom, only ask questions when the teacher has finished explaining a concept. During group discussions, allow your colleagues the opportunity to express themselves, summarise the ideas expressed and ask clarifying questions. This will help you learn effectively in groups.

Now, you will watch the video below and listen attentively to the information shared. Before you watch the video, use the dictionary to assist you match the meaning of the following vocabulary.

## Activity 6.2

Vocabulary		Definition	
1.	..... shelter	a.	. an improvement or development in something
2.	..... a skyscraper	b.	something that makes someone who is sick healthy again
3.	..... an advance	c.	a place to live, considered as one of the basic needs of life
4.	..... nanotechnology	d.	something that can be used and easily replaced
5.	..... to heal	e.	an area of science that develops and produces extremely small tools and machines by controlling the arrangement of separate atoms
6.	..... a cure	f.	in a way that causes little or no damage to the environment and can continue for a long time
7.	..... sustainably	g.	a very tall modern building, usually in a city
8.	..... a renewable	h.	to make or become well again, especially after an injury resource



From the vocabulary, what do you think the video will be about? How does the picture above give you a hint of the information in the video? The purpose of this exercise is to help you learn how to listen effectively for understanding. Now, watch the video.

<https://youtu.be/NJm2jV2CE5E>



What do you think about sustainable forests? Go ahead and watch it again. While watching and listening, avoid writing.

The video is about forests and the wood they provide. Forests, and the wood they provide, are very important in many areas of our lives. Wood is used in varied ways to make life easier for man. The main idea of the text is to encourage us to preserve our forests and the wood they provide for us. Choose sustainable wood for people and the planet.

### Activity 6.3:

- a.** Complete the sentences with words from the box.

climate-friendly	cures	drinking water	plastic
renewable resources	skyscrapers		

1. Wood helps provide clean and safe .....
  2. We can use wood for building houses and even .....
  3. We can use wood to replace .....
  4. Wood helps make transport more .....
  5. Wood can help us find ..... for diseases.
  6. Wood is a ..... if we manage it sustainably
- b.** In your opinion, why are forests important?

### Activity 6.4.

Now, listen to the short story below attentively. After listening, answer the questions in

- a.** Identify the main idea in the story.
- b.** What is the speaker's attitude towards parents in general?
- c.** i. Has the writer's attitude towards the father changed?
- d.** Why?
- e.** From the narrative, what lessons have you learned?
- f.** Retell the story to your class or siblings.

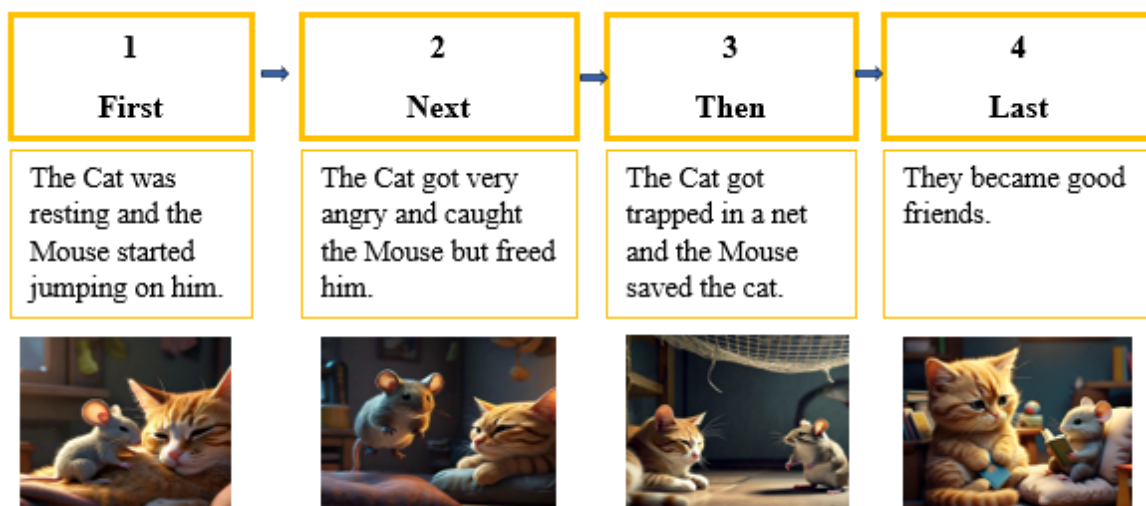
Good job! How did you feel after the activity? Share with your friends. You are now going to learn how ideas are presented during conversation. Make sure you follow the lesson carefully.

### The Sequence or Order of a Story or an Event

We use sequence of events to share or narrate an event witnessed or experienced. **A sequence of events** refers to the arrangement of ideas in a story or a given text. For you to be able to listen attentively to a conversation, you must learn that events or ideas in a speech or things that are discussed in a text are arranged in a certain order to make meaning. Therefore, when you are listening to a conversation you must know which ideas are presented first, which ones come next, then which ones follow, and which ones come last. When you have this in your mind, you will be able to identify the main or key ideas that are presented in a speech or a conversation that you listen to. This will also help you understand whatever information that you pay attention to. The sequence of events is illustrated in the boxes below.



Follow the storyline below to understand how events or ideas are presented sequentially.



Very interesting, right?



Let's practise rearranging events in stories sequentially. For example, let us rearrange the sentences below to create a meaningful story.

*They became friends.*

*The Fowl was trapped in the forest.*

*The Fowl later saved the Hawk from a hunter.*

*The Hawk saved the Fowl.*

We can rearrange the paragraph in a sequential order as follows:

**The Fowl was trapped in the forest. The Hawk saved the Fowl. The Fowl later saved the Hawk. They became friends.**

This has been fun, right? Do you want to try your hands on rearranging jumbled words and sentences? I know you do. Go ahead and listen to the text below attentively. It is about bees playing with balls (a new research finding). Afterwards, orally rearrange the jumbled sentences.

<https://youtu.be/Ghws6YFsPJA>



### Activity 6.5

1. Put the words and phrases to make sentences.
  - a. playing with and dogs Bumblebees enjoy as humans do. balls, just
  - b. imagined. Insect minds more sophisticated might have are far than we
  - c. are more The research suggests we previously complex than thought.  
that their minds
  - d. known cooperatively Bees in hives to work are
  - e. and brains, they're just being just nature's workhorses.  
their tiny size far from Despite
  - f. without The bees inducement. showed any extra their playful side
2. What are your favourite insects?

Well done on this one! We are going to rearrange another set of sentences, this time, to create a meaningful story. Listen to the audio below and correctly rearrange the set of sentences sequentially.

Now, let us rearrange the jumbled sentences orally into two paragraphs in a sequential order:

*It is very sad the way we treat our environment in Ghana, most especially on sanitation. There are heaps of refuse everywhere in the environment. This brings serious problems to human life. Poor sanitation causes a lot of diseases in our communities.*

*Not long ago, many of my classmates were admitted in the community clinic because of cholera outbreak. They stayed out of school for several days for proper treatment. A lot was spent on them. When are we going to stop dumping refuse everywhere in the environment?*

*May be till the last person in the community is affected. We need to work together to make our environment safe for every living thing.*

Good job. It has always been exciting engaging you. Share with a friend or classmate what makes you happy about this lesson. Always remember to listen attentively when your teacher is teaching or when people are communicating with you. We shall meet again in the next section. Goodbye!

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Listen and rearrange the jumbled sentences orally in a sequential order to create a story.
  
2. Interview your classmate on **the benefits of keeping our environment clean**.
  
3. Listen to the text on bees playing with balls again and answer the questions on it.

<https://youtu.be/Ghws6YFsPJA>

Are the sentences true or false?

### Answer

- |   |      |       |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. The research shows that bees are less intelligent than we previously imagined. | True | False |
| 2. This is the first time that researchers have seen bees playing.                | True | False |
| 3. Bees in hives usually work independently and alone.                            | True | False |
| 4. Bees are essential for the environment because they pollinate plants.          | True | False |
| 5. The bees' ages made a difference in how much they enjoyed playing.             | True | False |
| 6. Female bees rolled the balls for a longer time than male bees.                 | True | False |

## EXTENDED READING:

1. Click on any of the links below to read more on words and vocabularies:
  - a. [A1-A2 vocabulary | LearnEnglish Teens \(britishcouncil.org\)](https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/general-english/vocabulary/a1-a2)
  - b. [A1-A2 English vocabulary | LearnEnglish \(britishcouncil.org\)](https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/general-english/vocabulary/a1-a2)
  - c. <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/general-english/video-zone>
  - d. <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/general-english/audio-zone>
2. MacCary, M. (2021). *Handbook for Reading*. Ebeka Book Production

## GLOSSARY

1. **Dialogue:** Dialogue refers to the exchange of spoken words between two or more people.
2. **Attention:** Attention is the act of directing the mind to listen, see, concentrate or understand what someone is saying or doing at a particular time.

### **Audio One Text**

*As a child, I thought mothers were the only caring and loving parent. I believed that my father wasn't caring at all. Yes, I felt like that because each morning, it was mother's voice 'Good morning my children', I heard. This was usually followed by a kiss and then, 'Wake up! 'You will be late for school'. Finally, when all was set for school, the pocket money always got to us by mother's hand. The only time Daddy came into the picture was when we failed to do our house chores and our assignments. This misbehaviour normally got Mr. Ahmed, my father angry and his reactions did wrap us in fear.*

*One afternoon, my siblings and I returned from school to find that Mother had travelled for a seminar at Bawku. I was disappointed and immediately felt sick. Daddy prepared our lunch and served us. When he realised my mood, he became worried and had to stay in our bedroom with us over the night. The next morning, he ensured we were all ready for school, prepared our breakfast, gave us biscuits plus our usual money for school. I didn't understand my father's gesture at all. Three days later, my mind changed about my father. 'Fathers are caring after all?' So, I asked him why he wasn't giving us attention when mother was around. Though his explanations were good, he realised he had to make more time for us. Above all, I became convinced that a mother lives in a father and a father also lives in a mother for the good of their children. As such, fathers and mothers deserve to be celebrated equally.*

**Audio Two Text**

*Listen to the audio below and follow the process carefully to rearrange the sentences.*

*A lot was spent on them.*

*When are we going to stop dumping refuse everywhere in the environment?*

*It is very sad the way we treat our environment in Ghana, most especially on sanitation.*

*May be till the last person in the community is affected.*

*Not long ago, many of my classmates were admitted in the community clinic because of cholera outbreak.*

*There are heaps of refuse everywhere in the environment.*

*They stayed out of school for several days for proper treatment.*

*This brings serious problems to human life.*

*We need to work together to make our environment safe for every living thing.*

*Poor sanitation causes a lot of diseases in our communities.*

**Audio Three Text**

*His dream was to become a medical officer in future.*

*Afrifa couldn't read because he struggled with sound recognition.*

*Realising his problem, he decided to plan on how to address it.*

*With the support of his caring friends, his situation began to change as he started reading two-lettered words, then three-lettered words and finally constructing and reading sentences.*

*How would this dream be achieved if he did nothing about his situation?*

*He then got himself a phonics chart for beginners.*

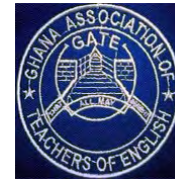
*After successfully passing his first examination in school, he looked back and said, 'Hard work indeed pays'.*

*Soon, Afrifa could read short stories and started improving in his English proficiency which turned things around for him in all other subjects.*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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