



Listening and Speaking:

Tips on Studying & Test-Taking

Practice listening and speaking outside the classroom as much as possible.

- **Listen** to the radio, especially the news as they often repeat stories. This review can improve your comprehension and increase your vocabulary.
- **Watch** TV or a DVD with friends, family & classmates and talk about it.
- **Speak** with your classmates in **English only**, both in and out of class. Find a conversation partner from your class with a different first language and practice. It's important to be able to understand foreign accents, especially in Canada – not just the "perfect" English of your instructors.
- Go to the **Learning Centres** and use listening materials to improve & test your understanding.
- **Sign up** at the Learning Centre tutor's desk and practice your speaking. Bring a topic or picture to discuss.
- Join a class, group or club to meet new people and practise your speaking.

Practice pronunciation:

Pronunciation is important. English is a **stress-based language**. Important information is stressed by the speaker. Practice stress and linking to help you with your speaking and listening skills.

- Go to the Learning Centre and use listening kits on pronunciation.
- Listen to books on tape or CD as models for pronunciation.
- Sign up at the Learning Centre tutor's desk for pronunciation practice.
- Ask the tutor about computer programs on pronunciation for self-study.
- Learn songs in English.

Before the test:

- Find out about the test format (length, kind of questions, passing mark) from your instructor **before** the final exam.
- Practice listening and speaking **under test conditions**. For example, if you have 15 seconds to answer a listening question, practice this. If you need to talk about a picture, practice that. If you need to have a conversation, practice with a classmate or a tutor.