



Unit: Listening

Skill 15: Active Listening

Activity B: Memory Test – You Said, I Heard

Activity Skills:

Small group interaction; brainstorming, listening and discussion.

Leadership Skills:

The ability to listen and retain information.

Suggested Level:

Advanced

Time:

30 minutes

Supplies needed:

- Paper to write pre-arranged statements on.
- Pens or Pencils to write.

Do Ahead:

Prepare statements of two to three sentences in length (Varying amounts will be needed depending on group size).

Source:

Developed by:
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Based On:

Workshops Inc.
[www.workshopsinc.com/
manual/Ch1L1.2.html](http://www.workshopsinc.com/manual/Ch1L1.2.html)

BACKGROUND:

Explain good listening skills to the participants. Good practices for active listening include:

- Stop whatever else you are doing.
- Look at the speaker without turning away.
- Affirm that you are paying attention and understand as you are being spoken to.
- Repeat comments or phrases to clarify and reinforce what the speaker says.
- Do not interrupt.
- Ask any questions that you have.
- If you don't understand something, say you don't understand and get clarification. DO NOT pretend to understand.

WHAT TO DO:

After reviewing the basics of good listening, form the participants into a single line or circle. Proceed with the game commonly known as, "gossip" or "telephone". Whisper a statement, one, two or three sentences in length, to the first person in the line, and have them whisper it to the next person, and so on until the message reaches the final person. Have this person say the statement aloud. See how much it has changed. Do this as many times as you like or have time for.

Now, have the group play a new variation on the game, but using good listening skills. This can be done with the whole group, or with a small set of volunteers if your group is very large. Take another statement, which you have written on a piece of paper, and take one participant outside the room, closing the door behind you. Only once, recite the written statement clearly to the participant and then go back into the room. Send out another participant to have the statement recited to them. Once this second person has heard the statement have the first participant sent back inside.

This process continues until all participants have heard the statement. The final person once again speaks the statement aloud.

TALK IT OVER:

Reflect:

- How much affect did good listening practices have on how accurate the statement remained?
- When is it appropriate to use good listening skills?

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Notes:

Apply:

- Which good listening skills do you use on a daily basis?
- In what situations do you most often find yourself practicing good listening?
- What kind of benefits can these listening skills afford you?

BEYOND THE BOX:

Optional Homework:

With a partner, have participants do a memory/listening test on their own. Using good listening skills, have the participants partner read a written statement once. See how long you can retain the statement verbatim, how long until you can only remember the basic idea of the statement and how long until the statement completely fades from memory.

Resources And Web Links: