1. **Strategies for listening effectively on placement**

Listening is a crucial part of effective communication. To improve your listening skills, you should consider the following active listening strategies when listening and interacting with others:

* Listen actively by observing both verbal and non-verbal cues by the speaker
* Adopt an attitude of respect for the speaker
* Pay attention to what you are listening
* Listen for key words, new words and expressions
* Take notes of key words and expressions if necessary
* Listen for specific details such as numbers, examples, events, time etc.
* Try to predict the content of the conversation
* Listen for repetition
* Observe any visual aids to assist your understanding
* When listening, acknowledge the speaker by making appropriate eye contact, smiling, and nodding

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Listening, noticing and understanding meaning, purpose and function

* Even though *'How are you?'* is grammatically formed as question, culturally we understand that it really means *'Hello'*
* Noticing and understanding the functions of phrases can help you to navigate the **'cultural norms'** and help you effectively communicate within groups.
* The clearer you are with your purpose or **function**, the easier it can be for those interacting with you to understand your meaning. And the easier it is to understand meaning, the more **effective learning** can occur.

Consider the following questions when listening and interacting with others on placement (Prince & Hoppe 2000):

* What knowledge do I have about this person’s cultural background?
* Do I take the time to listen and understand someone from a different culture and their perspective?
* Am I attentive to both their spoken words and body language?
* Do I pay attention to their emotions and any unspoken questions?
* Do I ensure I clarify and confirm what I’ve heard?
* Do I check that the other person has fully grasped what I communicated?

These questions can help enhance understanding and effective communication across cultures.

For more listening strategies visit: [Improving your English](https://www.deakin.edu.au/students/study-support/study-resources/study-assistance/improving-your-english) webpage.