

Listening Skills

When we listen, we use two unique and different processes.

- 1. Bottom-Up Process:** the listener uses linguistic knowledge to process auditory signals and recognize sounds, words, sentences.
- 2. Top-Down Process:** the listener infers meaning from the context, their background knowledge, convention and culture.

Look at these listening activities. Indicate which are Bottom-Up or Top-Down processes.

mark the stress in words	
identify who is speaking	
listen to a joke	
listen for gist and overall meaning	
listen and fill in the blanks	
circle key words in a listening passage	
listen and sequence the information	
recognize transitions in speech	

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Activity	Listening Process
mark the stress in words	BOTTOM UP
identify who is speaking	TOP DOWN
listen to a joke	TOP DOWN
listen for gist and overall meaning	TOP DOWN
listen and fill in the blanks	TOP DOWN
circle key words in a listening passage	BOTTOM UP
listen and sequence the information	TOP DOWN
recognize transitions in speech	BOTTOM UP