Listening Strategies: Prediction

Predicting what something is about is an important listening skill. It helps you to understand what to listen for in the passage and helps you guess what comes next. You can usually predict what something is about in the first few sentences you hear.

For example:

What you hear: Welcome aboard our Boeing 747 to Paris today.

What you predict: This is probably a pilot’s welcome message. The passage will be about how long the flight is, what services there will be, the name of the pilot, and weather conditions.

Exercise 1

Listen to the first sentence(s) of each listening exercise. Predict what you are listening to and what kinds of things may follow.

1. Listening to: ____________________________
   To follow: ____________________________

2. Listening to: ____________________________
   To follow: ____________________________

3. Listening to: ____________________________
   To follow: ____________________________

4. Listening to: ____________________________
   To follow: ____________________________

5. Listening to: ____________________________
   To follow: ____________________________

6. Listening to: ____________________________
   To follow: ____________________________

7. Listening to: ____________________________
   To follow: ____________________________
Listening Strategies: Prediction

Using what we already know (background knowledge) to help us predict (or guess) what a listening may be about is an important listening skill. It helps us understand the topic better. It also makes it easier to get the main idea of the topic we’re going to listen to. Therefore, it is important that, before we listen to a lecture, we always look at the title or topic of the listening, pictures or charts that are included, and/or the heading(s) and subheadings of the outline provided for the listening activity. From there, we try to predict what would be included in the listening.

Exercise 2
Before you listen to the lecture, have a look at the title, the outline of each listening, and tell your teacher what might be included in the listening. Then listen to the lecture and check to see how accurate your prediction is.

UAE University

I. # of faculties:

_____________ when UAEU started in 1977,
_____________ in 2006

II. ________________:

male students: _______________ in 1977,
3198 in 2004-2005
_____________: 189 in 1977,
_______________ in 2004-2005

III. # of graduates:

287 males and 194 females in ______________;
_______________ males and _______________ females in 2004

IV. # of UAEU graduates working: ______________
Listening Script: Exercise 1

1. Hi, I’m Michelle. Welcome. Before we actually begin today’s activity, I want to draw your attention to some safety rules that we need to follow while doing the activity.

2. Well, most of the day I’m busy seeing patients, but I do a few things outside of work to enjoy life.

3. Good afternoon and welcome to The Julie Jones Show. Today the topic is child care.

4. In our family, there’re three things you need to do to drive.

5. English Language Center. How may I help you?

6. Okay, May I see your driver’s license, please?

7. Honey, the basketball game is about to start. And could you bring some chips/popcorn….

Listening Script: Exercise 2

Though you are a student at the UAE University, there might be some information about the university that you are not aware of. So in today’s lecture, we are going to talk a bit about some facts of the UAE University.

First, let’s take a look at the number of faculties. The UAEU was founded by the federal law No. 4/1976. There were only four faculties when the university first started. Other faculties were added later. Today the university consists of 10 faculties: Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Education, College of Business and Economics, Faculty of Sharia’ and Law, Faculty of Food Systems, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Faculty of Information and Technology and UGRU (the University General Requirements Unit).

Next, we’ll see the change in the number of students since the university started. Well, the number of students enrolled in the university increased from 313 males and 189 females in 1977 to 3,198 males and 12,515 females in 2004-2005; the number of graduates also increased from 287 males and 194 females in 1981 to 10,246 males and 27,238 females in 2004. Today there is a total of around 17,000 UAEU graduates working in various professions in the United Arab Emirates.
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For example:

What you hear: Welcome aboard our Boeing 747 to Paris today.

What you predict: This is probably a pilot’s welcome message. The passage will be about how long the flight is, what services there will be, the name of the pilot, and weather conditions.

Exercise 1

Listen to the first sentence(s) of each listening exercise. Predict what you are listening to and what kinds of things may follow.

1. Listening to: an instructor/teacher/trainer talking
   To follow: ___ the list of safety rules, how/when to use the rules

2. Listening to: ___ a doctor (talking in an interview)
   To follow: ___ examples of things he/she does outside of work, how often he/she does these things and maybe why he/she chooses these activities

3. Listening to: ___ a radio or TV show
   To follow: ___ Whose responsibility is it to take care of young children in a family? When both parents work, who should take care of their children, a relative, nanny, or a preschool?

4. Listening to: ___ a member of a family
   To follow: ___ The three things that the person’s family members have to do to drive, like to be 18 years old, to have a license, and to have his/her own car or to have money to pay the petrol.
5. Listening to: Somebody in a language center is answering a phone call
   To follow: The caller asks for information about different courses and their timing and fees.

6. Listening to: a police officer talking to a driver
   To follow: The police officer tells the driver what he/she has done wrong and the driver tries to come up excuses to avoid getting a ticket.

7. Listening to: a husband or wife
   To follow: other things that he/she would like to have while enjoying the game, maybe more food, drinks, glasses, warm clothing, etc.
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Exercise 2
Before you listen to the lecture, have a look at the title, the outline of each listening, and tell your teacher what might be included in the listening. Then listen to the lecture and check to see how accurate your prediction is.

UAE University

I. # of faculties:
   4 when UAEU started in 1977,
   10 in 2006

II. # of students:
   male students: 313 in 1977,
   3,198 in 2004-2005
   Female students: 189 in 1977,
   12,515 in 2004-2005

III. # of graduates:
   287 males and 194 females in 1981;
   10,246 males and 27,238 females in 2004

IV. # of UAEU graduates working: 17,000