

LISTENING ACTIVITIES

Following Directions

Play some lively music (not loud) in the background. Read aloud a set of directions for students to follow. Continue playing the music and add a second steady background noise, like a ticking clock, a metronome, or even a hair dryer on low. Read a second set of directions read and ask students to try to follow them. Now add a second person reading text aloud, with the same ongoing background noise, while you read a new set of directions. The noise should not drown out the speaker, but should be distracting. Each added sound makes it harder to focus on the directions being given.

You can also make a tape recording for a listening center. Give students a blank piece of paper or a simple activity page. Record a set of directions. For each direction given, increase the number (not the volume) of distracting background noises. See how well students can continue to follow the directions.

Musical Directions

You can do something similar to the above activity with music. You will need an instrument, like a drum or a bell, and a piece of music or a song. Try to choose music that uses multiple instruments and/or voices. Tell students they must raise a hand each time they hear the sound of the instrument. Hit the instrument randomly while the music is playing.

Sound Tag

One person is chosen to be "It" and is blindfolded. Students are given different words or sounds to make. The person who is "It" must tag only the person who makes a specific word or sound. The person who is "It" must be able to discriminate that particular word or sound from the rest and find the person who is making it.