

# Stratograms

A Publication of the Belton #124 School District  
Special Services Department



## Active Listening to Improve Concentration

### Topics

Listening

Listening Behaviors

Keys to Remembering Directions

Non-Verbal Communication



Specific observable behaviors allow both the student and teacher to know when listening is occurring. Listening is the receiving action during oral communication. Practicing how to listen will help students overcome problems associated with concentration. Parents and teachers can help students by recognizing and expecting these behaviors when children are practicing the act of listening.

Observable Listening Behaviors are:

- Maintaining eye-contact with the speaker.
- Having good posture- facing and leaning slightly forward toward the speaker, If seated, feet flat on the floor, and back straight.
- Having your head up. Keeping your head up says “I am listening and I want to learn”. When students lay their heads on their desks it is a non-verbal communication that says “I am not listening and I do not care what you are saying”.
- No side talking.
- Concentrate on every word and gesture made by the speaker. One way to determine if the listener is really paying attention can be made by either the listener or the observer. If the listener is concentrating, s/he will be able to repeat the last sentence stated by the speaker.

When students learn to listen well they will more fully develop the ability to receive, recall, and apply the information that has been given. Listening is a skill that can be strengthened and is acquired by learning.

### **Keys to remembering directions-**

Be alert for signal words and phrases, such as:

“First”, “Remember that”, “Take note of”, “For example”,  
“Next”, “Before”, “After”, “In summary”, “This would be a good test question”,  
“This is really important”, etc.

Visualize the position of directional terms, such as “...at the top right corner, one-half inch from the left, in the center of the top line.” Being able to visualize strengthens the ability to remember facts and details.

Note special instructions, such as “Skip one line after each item”, “Fold your paper lengthwise,” or ” Draw a vertical line, one third of the way from the left-hand side of the paper”. Failing to follow directional directions exactly may lower your grade...take the time to pay attention and do it exactly as required.

All humans communicate non-verbally as well as by verbal means. Non-verbal communication includes what the listeners see, hear, feel, touch, smell and taste. Some examples of non-verbal communication are:

- Use of facial expressions
- Hand and body gestures to stress important ideas
- Use of louder pitch or softer tones when speaking
- Pauses between words or sentences
- Listen for words that are stressed

Repetition of facts, ideas, or details

KU's **SLANT** strategy was developed to aid students in listening and paying attention in the classroom. After teaching the strategy the teacher can redirect the entire class by simply saying "Slant". It is beneficial to have posters with the steps to the strategy on the classroom walls and/or on 3x5 cards taped to the students' desks.

The steps to the strategy are:

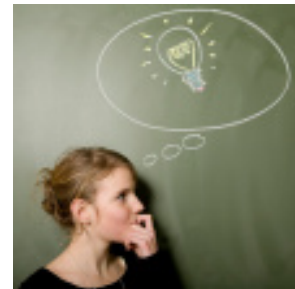
**S**= Sit up straight

**L**= Lean forward

**A**= Activate your thinking

**N**= Note key ideas

**T**= Track the talker



Sources:

KU

KU Special Connections

Plano, Texas Strategy Handbook