



THE ENGLISH EATERY

Listening for gist

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What is listening for gist?

Synonyms for 'gist' also known as essence, point, substance, burden, kernel, import (be careful as all of these synonyms have other meanings also).

In other words, the gist of a conversation is what the conversation is about. The gist is the big picture, it is not the little details.



Why is listening for gist important?

Listening for gist involves listening in order to understand general meaning rather than all the specific details and information mentioned. It helps us see the big picture and also helps us know when we have to listen more closely and carefully in order to hear a particular piece of information. In a situation where you listen to the same recording twice, such as an exam listening task, it's often helpful to listen for gist the first time to get a general idea of the meaning, and then listen for more detailed second time



How do we listen for gist?

Finding the 'gist' can sometimes be easy, but sometimes not. Often the main theme or idea of a conversation is directly stated at the beginning of the conversation. However, that is not always true and sometimes we need to listen to the whole conversation and put together all the information we hear before the 'gist' becomes clear. When you listen for gist, focus on key words and phrases, and tone of voice. Try to ignore and not worry about unknown words and phrases

