



## Profile of Ability

### The listener can:

Understand, with considerable effort, simple formal and informal communication on topics of personal relevance.

### When the communication is:

- Spoken clearly at a slow to normal rate
- Sometimes supported by visual or contextual clues
- Face-to-face or via digital media (usually one-on-one or in small groups)
- Related to topics of personal relevance
- Relatively short
- In non-demanding contexts

### Demonstrating these strengths and limitations:

- Understands an expanded range of factual details and some implied meanings
- Recognizes meaning based on simple sentences and structures and shows an initial understanding of some complex sentences and structures
- Sometimes relies on contextual clues for comprehension
- Begins to recognize some common registers and idioms
- May need some assistance (such as repetition, paraphrasing, speech modification or explanation)
- Comprehension on the phone is difficult

## I. Interacting with Others

- Understand short social exchanges containing introductions, casual small talk and leave-taking.  
[Communication is about 6 turns.]
  - Identifies formal and casual style and register.
  - Identifies specific factual details and some implied meanings.
  - Demonstrates strengths and limitations typical of Listening Benchmark 4, as listed in the Profile of Ability.

### Sample Tasks

Listen and respond to a friend's simple, casual, familiar small talk.  
Listen to a friend or co-worker describing plans for the weekend.  
Listen to a discussion about household tasks to determine who will do what.

## II. Comprehending Instructions

- Understand common, sequentially presented instructions and directions related to familiar, everyday situations of personal relevance.  
[Instructions are about 4 to 5 steps.]
  - Identifies words and phrases that indicate movement, location, manner, frequency and duration.
  - Responds with appropriate actions to directions and instructions.
  - Recognizes and identifies correct sequence of steps.
  - Demonstrates strengths and limitations typical of Listening Benchmark 4, as listed in the Profile of Ability.

### Sample Tasks

Follow simple instructions from a doctor to deal with a common ailment (such as the flu or a cold).  
Follow instructions for a simple recipe to identify the order of the steps.  
Follow directions to locate items in a room, on a map or in a diagram. (*Can you get me the book? It's in the middle cabinet, on the top shelf, on the right-hand side.*)  
Follow instructions for a basic task at work, such as making a photocopy or cleaning a piece of equipment.



# Listening – Benchmark 4

## III. Getting Things Done

- Understand short communication intended to influence or persuade others in familiar, everyday situations.
  - Identifies purpose, main ideas, factual details and some implied meanings in simple announcements, commercials or infomercials.
  - Demonstrates strengths and limitations typical of Listening Benchmark 4, as listed in the Profile of Ability.

### Sample Tasks

Listen to a short, simple commercial about a product or service to get the gist and enough information to decide whether the product is worth purchasing.

Listen to an airport ticket agent telling a traveller that a boarding pass cannot be given because the flight is now full and explaining when the next available flight will be departing.

Listen to an exchange between a sales clerk and a customer to determine the nature of the transaction.

## IV. Comprehending Information

- Understand short descriptive or narrative communication on topics of personal relevance.
  - Gets the gist.
  - Identifies factual details, some implied meanings, key words and expressions.
  - Identifies who, what, where and when.
  - Demonstrates strengths and limitations typical of Listening Benchmark 4, as listed in the Profile of Ability.

### Sample Tasks

Listen to a friend, colleague or classmate's story about shopping at a particular store to decide whether or not to shop there.

Listen to a very short, clear weather report to use the information to decide what to wear.

Listen to a brief description of topics to be covered in a course.