



# Look and Listen



## Strategies for Classroom Success

1. **Prepare to listen.** Your attitude in attending class is of major importance. If you feel that a particular lecture is a waste of time, you will be in no mood to listen. You should decide before a lecture that your class time will be well spent as a learning experience.
2. **Listen for clues** in what the teacher says to help you identify what is important - a clue or phrase that states in advance that something important is going to be said, for example, "Here's the key..." or "One significant reason for this is..."
3. **Repetition.** Repeated information is probably worth noting. "Once again...", "As I said before...", or "In other words...."
4. **Review.** A review should itemize key points, so jot these down: "In summary...", "In conclusion...", or "So, to sum all of this up..."
5. **Gestures:** Watch for pointing, waving arms, tapping on the chalkboard, etc. These can signal important information.
6. **Facial expressions:** Watch the face for raised eyebrows, grimaces, or intense staring. Any of these can mean business.
7. **Changes in volume:** Be aware of the voice going from soft to loud, or loud to soft. The lecturer may do this to get attention.
8. **Changes in tempo:** A teacher may slow down or speed up to emphasize a point. Does the teacher spend a lot of time on one point or topic?



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9. **Writing on the board:** Some teachers put the most important information on the board. Anything ever written on the board during a lecture is worth copying down into your notes.

10. **Try to anticipate the main ideas of the coming class:** Look over your notes of the previous lecture and read the course material.

11. **Pay attention to questions.** The questions put forth by students and the instructors are important parts of the classroom learning experience. When the teacher asks a question, he/she is usually discussing something of importance and trying to make a point. When you or other students make inquiries, you signal the instructor that the message isn't clear. Both types of questions will serve to clarify lecture material and both types may appear on quizzes or tests. Write them down!

12. **If you have questions about material from the previous class** or text, ask the teacher before class about them.

13. **Prepare a few questions** you expect to be answered on new material if possible.

14. **Resist distractions** by sitting in front or middle of the room away from disruptive classmates and by focusing on the instructor. Don't be afraid to ask for a seat change.

15. **Put yourself in the "mood" with** proper posture; do not sprawl across your desk or sit slouched in your seat.

16. **Shift position in your seat every so often.** Don't sit frozen in one position. Shifting on occasion will help keep the blood circulating, send more oxygen to your brain, and help you remain alert.



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