

Soft Skills.

1.1. Listening to Short Talks and Answering Questions

What is a Short Talk?

A **short talk** is a brief oral presentation or lecture — typically lasting 2 to 5 minutes — on a particular topic or idea, delivered in academic, professional, or casual settings.

Types of Questions Asked:

After listening to a short talk, you may be asked two main types of questions:

1. Comprehension Questions

Test your understanding of facts, ideas, and details mentioned in the talk.

Examples:

- What is the speaker's main idea?
- What examples did the speaker give?
- When did the event happen?

2. Inference Questions

Test your ability to deduce or conclude information that is implied but not directly stated.

Examples:

- What can you infer about the speaker's attitude?
- Why do you think the speaker mentions this example?
- What might happen next based on the information?

Listening Strategies:

To answer both types of questions effectively, follow these strategies:

Before Listening:

- **Understand the context** — check the title or topic if given.
- **Predict possible content** — think about what might be included in the talk.

While Listening:

- **Focus on key points** — note main ideas, supporting details, examples, and numbers.
- **Listen for signal words** like:
 - *Firstly, however, moreover, for example, finally.*
- **Identify tone and attitude** for inference questions.
- **Take brief notes** if allowed — keywords only.

After Listening:

- **Quickly review your notes.**
- **Read the questions carefully** to check if they ask for direct facts (comprehension) or implied meaning (inference).
- **Answer based on both what was said and what was suggested.**

Example:

Short Talk Topic: *The Importance of Time Management for Students*

After Listening:

- **Comprehension Question:**
According to the speaker, what is the first step in managing time effectively?
Answer: Setting clear, realistic goals.
- **Inference Question:**
Why does the speaker mention students missing deadlines?
Answer: To imply that poor time management leads to stress and academic problems.

Quick Tips:

- * Stay calm and focused.
- * Don't get stuck on unknown words — focus on overall meaning.
- * Practice active listening — anticipate ideas as the speaker talks.
- * Listen for the speaker's tone, attitude, and emphasis for inferences.

Conclusion:

Listening to short talks and answering questions requires a mix of **active listening, note-taking, comprehension, and reasoning skills**. Regular practice can help improve both accuracy and confidence in tackling these tasks.

Example: Listening to a Short Talk and Answering Questions

Short Talk (Read or Listen to This)

"Good morning everyone. Today, I want to share the importance of regular exercise. Exercise not only helps you stay physically fit but also improves your mental health. People who exercise regularly tend to have better sleep, improved concentration, and lower stress levels. You don't need to spend hours in the gym — even a 30-minute walk every day can make a big difference. According to health experts, engaging in moderate exercise five days a week can reduce the risk of heart disease, obesity, and diabetes. So, start including physical activity in your daily routine for a healthier, happier life."

Comprehension Questions

1 What is the main topic of the talk?

The importance of regular exercise.

2, According to the speaker, how much exercise is recommended?

Moderate exercise five days a week.

3. Name two benefits of regular exercise mentioned in the talk.

Better sleep and improved concentration.

Inference Questions

4. Why does the speaker mention a 30-minute walk?

To suggest that even simple, easy activities can improve health.

2 What can you infer about the speaker's attitude towards exercise?

The speaker has a positive and encouraging attitude towards exercise, believing it's important for both physical and mental well-being.

Conclusion:

You can follow this example format:

- Listen to the talk
- Identify main points and facts (for comprehension questions)

Understand implied ideas and tone (for inference questions)
