

Improving Listening Skills

- ✓ Concentrate on the message being communicated, not on individual words.
- ✓ Check other clues like gestures and the context of the message. When listening to me talk in class, pay attention to my gestures and body language.
- ✓ Pick out key words that convey the message. Don't get stuck on not understanding specific words. If you get the gist of the meaning, you are doing fine.
- ✓ Listen for cognates: French words that sound like their English counterpart, and often have the same meaning. But watch for 'false cognates': words that seem the same, but have different meanings. If the meaning doesn't seem to make sense, you may be dealing with a false cognate ("faux ami" or "false friend" in French).
- ✓ For 1101-1102, listen to the vocabulary CD for each chapter as we begin the chapter, and review it often. (See vocabulary tips for more ideas on how to use this CD).
- ✓ Use lab CDs and vocabulary CD at home, in the lab, and even in your car.
- ✓ Learn phrases in French to ask to clarify meaning such as: "Répétez, s'il vous plaît"/"Encore, s'il vous plaît" (Please repeat); "Comment dit-on....." (How does one say...?); "Plus lentement, s'il vous plaît" (Speak more slowly, please).
- ✓ Watch movies on DVD while listening to the French language track. Have you watched "Star Wars" or "Harry Potter" 6 times already? Try it once in French! While you won't understand most of what is being said, especially in first year, you will hear the intonation and pronunciation of French.
- ✓ This site has links to French audio and video news that you can listen to/watch on your computer.