

How do I listen better in the (math) classroom?

1. Have a sense of what you want to get out of it. Set a goal for your listening, and generate predictions about what the speaker will say. Before the problem solution presenter begins, mentally review what you already know about the subject and what your ideas were when you first tried it. Form an intention to “listen out for” what’s important or relevant.

Exs. Compare what you did to what the person at the board did. What was different? What’s wrong with what you see/hear? How do your ideas differ from the person speaking?

2. **MAINTAIN FOCUS**; if your attention wanders, bring it back to the words being spoken. Don’t allow yourself to be thrown off by confusing or unfamiliar details. Instead, take note of what you don’t understand and make inferences about what those things might mean, based on other clues available to you : previous knowledge of the subject, the context of the discussion, the identity of the speaker, and so on.
3. **EVALUATE** what you’re hearing and your own understanding of it. Check your inferences to see if you’re correct, and identify the questions you still have so you can pursue the answers later (or even right when the person is done speaking).
4. Remember and **KNOW** that you will be expected to carry out the idea or problem-solving concept later on. What we observe seems to prime the brain to learn better. (Ask if you don’t know!)