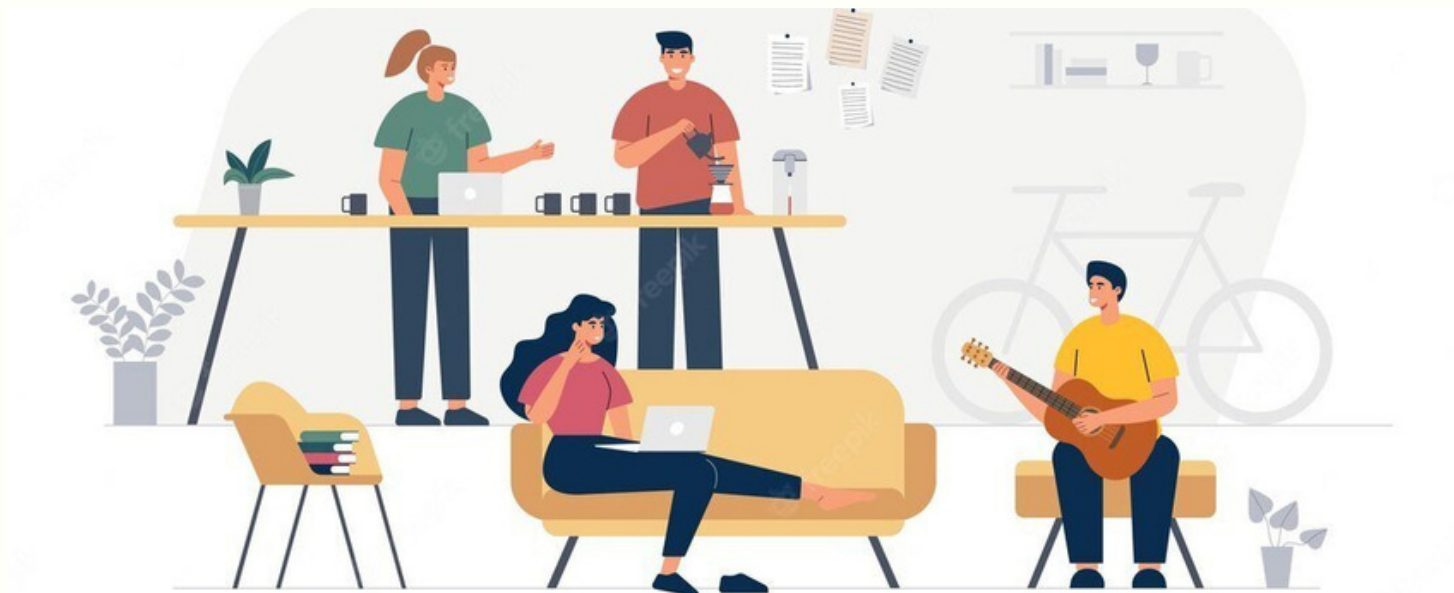




ACTIVE LISTENING



What is active listening and what is its role in education?

Active listening, often described as the cornerstone of effective communication, holds unparalleled significance in education. It transcends mere hearing, involving a conscious effort to comprehend, interpret, and respond to the speaker. In the context of education, active listening becomes a dynamic tool, enriching the learning experience for both students and educators. Active listening transcends the passive act of hearing. It involves fully engaging with a speaker, not only through the auditory sense but also by processing their message. It necessitates focusing on the speaker, providing them with your complete attention, and offering feedback that affirms your comprehension. In educational settings, active listening is fundamental for both teachers and students. For educators, it's about comprehending the needs and questions of their students, tailoring lessons to suit their learning styles, and providing effective feedback. For students, active listening enables them to grasp concepts accurately, participate meaningfully in discussions, and engage with their peers and teachers.

MAIN FOCUS

WHAT IS ACTIVE LISTENING AND WHAT IS ITS ROLE IN EDUCATION?

KEY COMPONENTS OF ACTIVE LISTENING

ACTIVE LISTENING IN ONLINE CLASSES VS. FACE-TO-FACE CLASSES

TIPS TO IMPROVE ACTIVE LISTENING SKILLS



Active Listening vs. Passive Hearing:
Passive hearing involves simply perceiving sounds without necessarily processing or comprehending their meaning. It's akin to the automatic reception of noise, like the hum of a fan or the rustle of leaves. Active listening, on the other hand, is a deliberate and cognitive process. It requires mental engagement and a genuine interest in understanding the speaker's message.



Key Components of Active Listening:

Full attention

- 1 Active listening demands that we give our complete focus to the speaker. This means setting aside distractions, both physical and mental, and devoting our energy to absorbing the information being shared.

Non-verbal communication

Beyond words, active listening encompasses non-verbal cues. This includes maintaining eye contact, nodding in agreement, and adopting an open and receptive body language. These signals communicate to the speaker that they have our undivided attention.

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Empathy and understanding

- 3 Actively listening involves trying to see the situation from the speaker's perspective. It requires an empathetic approach, which means not only comprehending their words but also appreciating the emotions and concerns underlying them.

Withholding judgment

Active listeners suspend judgment and refrain from forming conclusions prematurely. Instead, they remain open to the speaker's ideas and experiences, even if they differ from their own.

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Providing feedback

- 5 Part of active listening involves offering feedback that validates the speaker's message. This can be in the form of affirming statements, reflective responses, or thoughtful questions that demonstrate comprehension.



THE IMPACT OF ACTIVE LISTENING IN EDUCATION:

In the educational realm, trust is foundational. Active listening cultivates trust and rapport between educators and students. When learners feel heard and valued, they are more likely to actively participate in discussions and engage deeply in the learning process. Active listening ensures that students grasp subject matter accurately. By actively processing information, learners are better equipped to remember and apply concepts. This leads to a more profound understanding of the material. Every student learns differently. Active listening empowers educators to identify diverse learning styles within their classroom. Armed with this knowledge, they can adapt their teaching methods to cater to the varied needs of their students.

Active Listening in online classes vs. face-to-face classes

Active listening is essential in both online and face-to-face settings, forming the foundation of effective communication and learning. Here are some key specifics:

Online classes:

- **Technological challenges:** Potential disruptions due to connectivity issues and technical glitches.
- **Limited non-verbal cues:** Reduced reliance on body language and facial expressions.
- **Increased potential for distractions:** More opportunities for digital distractions.
- **Clear articulation:** Emphasis on clear and articulate verbal communication.
- **Engagement techniques:** Utilization of interactive tools to facilitate participation.

Face-to-Face Classes:

- **Immediate feedback:** Ability to gauge immediate responses and adjust teaching style.
- **Personal connection:** Closer and more personal interaction between students and instructors.
- **Reduced technological dependency:** Lower reliance on technology reduces disruptions.
- **Group dynamics:** Natural group interactions and discussions among students.
- **Physical presence and authority:** Instructors' physical presence establishes authority.

Tips to improve active listening skills:

- Maintain eye contact
- Practice reflective responses
- Minimize distractions
- Ask clarifying questions

