

# Listening Skills

## Social Emotional Learning

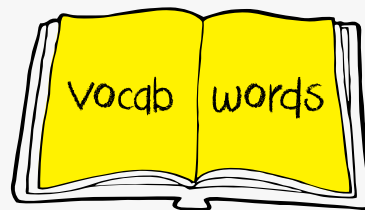
**Project and Purpose:** Students identify, discuss, and demonstrate what it looks like to listen carefully and why it's important.

**Essential Question:**

What does it look like to listen carefully?



- Breakable object that appears very precious or important.
- Paper/pencils (grades 1-2); white board or chart paper/markers
- Recording of grasshopper sounds
- **Grasshopper and the Ants** story
- Picture of a grasshopper



listen

skill

careful/carefully

**Room Set up:** Enough space for students to use their bodies to freeze into single statues- can be behind tables and desks with chairs pushed in.

PreK-2

# Introduction

1. Hold up a breakable (or seemingly breakable/precious) object and wonder aloud what it would look like to carefully take the object across the room and put it down. How would the students do it? Swing it around? Throw and catch it on the way?
2. Ask a student to carefully carry the breakable object across the room and put it down. Ask students: Describe what you saw. What does “carefully” look like?
3. Teacher asks about the word LISTEN. What does listen mean? What do you look like when you are listening?
4. Share that you listened to the class for a minute before starting the discussion, and share what was heard- sounds, conversations, etc.
5. Announce that it is the class’s turn to stop and listen to the sounds of the school.
6. Explain that everyone will need to be silent for 30-45 seconds and use their hearing to notice all the sounds and conversations around them.
7. At the end of the time, lead a discussion about what was heard, creating a list.
8. Put the two words together – LISTEN CAREFULLY and asks students to think about the words they just explored: careful/carefully and listen. What do they think the phrase listen carefully means?

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## Direct Instruction (I do)

1. Tell students that they will listen to a story and use the freeze game to show what it looks like when the characters in the story listen carefully and when they do not.
2. Review/introduce and demonstrate the freeze game:
  - a. Students stand in their own space.
  - b. Teacher tells the story.
  - c. When the drum sounds/when you clap, they freeze in the position directed.
3. Explain that the first character has a special sound. Ask students to listen carefully while you play recorded sound of a grasshopper.
4. Ask them to identify what they hear, and then hold up picture of a grasshopper.
5. Preface that it is about a grasshopper who doesn't listen in spring, summer or fall and ends up very hungry in winter.
  - Read the story **The Grasshopper and the Ants** (provided).
6. Discuss the story using any/all of the following questions:
  - a. What advice did the ants give to Grasshopper?
  - b. Did the Grasshopper listen to the advice of the ants? Why or why not?
  - c. What happened when Grasshopper did not listen?

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## Guided Exploration (We do)

1. Explain that students will use the freeze game to show what listening looks like.
2. Say to students: When I clap once, freeze into a statue on two feet. When I clap twice, unfreeze and stand in actor ready: arms and hands to your side, feet shoulder width apart.
3. Have students freeze in a statue of each of the following:
  - a. The Grasshopper not listening to the ants and having fun in the summer.
  - b. One of the ants working hard to collect food.
  - c. One of the ants trying to tell the Grasshopper to collect food.
  - d. The Grasshopper in the winter.

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## Independent Practice (You do)

1. Divide the class into groups 1 and 2. Designate a stage and an audience area and explain that each group will take turns freezing into statues on stage and observing the statues as a member of the audience.
2. Have Group 2 sit in audience position for round one facing Group 1.
  - a. Tell Group 1: Freeze into a statue of what YOU look like when you are not listening.
  - b. Ask Group 2: Audience, what do you see?
3. Have Group 1 sit in audience position for round 2 facing Group 2.
  - a. Tell Group 2: Freeze into a statue of what YOU look like when you are not listening.
  - b. Ask Group 1: Audience, what do you see?
4. Switch roles again and have each group freeze into a statue of what they look like when they ARE listening.
5. Have audience group describe what they see.

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# Conclusion/Reflection

Teacher asks both groups:

1. What is the difference between the two statues: one which is NOT listening and one that IS listening?
2. How did the statues compare to the ones we created for the Grasshopper and the Ants?
3. What stops us from listening to someone?
4. How can we help each other listen carefully?

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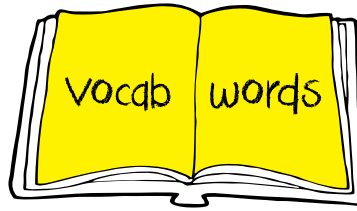
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## Vocabulary Definitions

### listen (v)

- Definition: to give attention with the ear; attend closely for the purpose of hearing; to pay attention; heed; obey.
- Context: Jack remembered to listen to the directions.

### careful (adj)

- Definition: cautious in one's actions; taking pains in one's work; thorough; mindful; (of things) done with accuracy or caution.
- Context: Aria was very careful as she carried the glass dish to the sink.

### skill (n)

- Definition: the ability, coming from one's knowledge, practice, aptitude, etc., to do something well; competent excellence in performance, expertness; dexterity.
- Context: Our team has practiced so much that we have a lot of skill playing basketball.

# The Grasshopper and the Ants

One spring day, a Grasshopper was hopping around happily when he saw the Ants busy collecting food. He asked the Ants to come and play with him, but the Ants said, “No time to play! We are busy collecting food. Winter is coming! You should collect food, too!” But the Grasshopper didn’t listen to the Ants and kept playing.

Then, on a hot summer day, the Grasshopper hopped by the Ants who were busy working and collecting food. “Come play and eat some berries with me,” he said. But the Ants said, “No time to play! We are collecting food. Winter is coming! You should collect food, too!” But the Grasshopper didn’t listen. He kept eating and playing.

When fall came, the Grasshopper was happily hopping around in the leaves. He saw the Ants and said, “Come play in the leaves with me!” But the Ants said, “No time for playing in leaves! Winter will be here soon. You need to collect food.” But Grasshopper didn’t listen and kept playing in the leaves.

Finally, winter came. The Grasshopper was hungry because he didn’t listen to the Ants and hadn’t collected any food. One Ant came out of its tunnels underground and gave the Grasshopper some food, saying, “You should have listened to us, Grasshopper!”

**Moral:** If you don’t listen to wise words, you may have problems later.



Source: <https://betanews.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/grasshopper.jpg>