

Listening skills (2)

Following the Listening skills (1) exercise, provide every pupil with the transcript of the text.

Ask the pupils to follow the transcript as they listen to the German.

Tell them that after a short while you will turn down the sound but they must continue to read along at the same speed as they think the recording would run.

Then press 'pause' and say **Stop!** The pupils must then underline the very next word that they think they will hear when you start the recording again.

At this point turn up the sound whilst keeping pause on.

They then compare with the pupils around them and feedback which word they think they will next hear. You write these suggestions on the board. Then tell them to listen while you release the pause: no-one will make a sound! And you have taught your class to listen.

It never fails. When they have heard the correct answer, they will want to do this exercise several times.

During these listening exercises, the pupils have been concentrating on the language – the sounds and forms of words.

They will be very familiar with the text and so if you want them now to focus on the meaning, ask them to prepare some questions for a listening comprehension exercise. This is a good group exercise.

If the pupils themselves process the text as a teacher would, then they are more likely to understand it than if you do all the work for them. They can also prepare a mark scheme and you could try out some of their suggestions either with the same or a parallel group.