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Clarifying and Understanding Meaning

Listening is a basic means of getting information and learning new things in our everyday lives. Here are three strategies that will help you clarify and understand oral texts.

Asking Questions



The first step in understanding an oral text is to hear clearly what the speaker says. Ask the speaker to speak up or repeat what he or she says if needed.



Ask questions to avoid misunderstanding and show your interest in what the speaker says.



Ask relevant questions in response to an oral text to get more specific information.

Listening and Looking

Another way to understand an oral text is through listening and looking. Speakers often use gestures, facial expressions, and changes in the tone and volume of their voice to express their thoughts. Watching their body language can also help you understand oral texts.

e.g.



a speaker showing fear by speaking louder and widening her eyes



Quick Reference Guide



Making Connections

Making connections helps you get a more in-depth understanding of an oral text.

There are three types of connections:



Connect the oral text to something you have read, heard, or seen in another text.



Connect the oral text to something you have personally experienced.



Connect the oral text to something that is happening in the world.

Examples of Questions to Ask:

- Could you please speak louder?
- Could you say that again, please?
- Do you mean the rainforest will disappear one day?

Also, use question words to get specific information:

- who what which
- where when why
- how could

e.g.

When the librarian read "50 Below Zero" by Robert Munsch to us, it reminded me of the polar bears that live in the Arctic.



It reminded me of a magazine article that I read about the Arctic fox.



11 Clarifying and Understanding Meaning

A. The children are asking questions to clarify their understanding of different oral texts. Fill in the blanks with the correct question words.

1.

_____ is the guest speaker?



2.

_____ you please speak slower?

who a person	what a thing
which a choice	where a place
when a time	why a reason
how a way or condition	could a request

"How" is the only word that is used twice.

3. _____ will the presentation begin?

4. _____ do some poems rhyme?

5. _____ does this make you feel?

6. _____ is the meaning of that word?

7. _____ can I go to find more information?

8. _____ of the two characters is more important?

9. _____ do I organize the facts I have learned?

B. Match the correct body language with its purpose. Then answer the question.

Speaker's Body Language

Purpose

- to show surprise
- to show happiness
- to show one agrees
- to show confidence
- to direct the audience toward more information



Should a speaker speak in a high or low pitch to add suspense?

C. Identify each type of connection made. Write the letter.

A

The zookeeper's presentation reminded me of the movie "Madagascar".

B

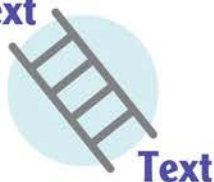
The poem about holidays reminded me that Canada is full of people from different cultures.



- C** Dad read the story "Love You Forever" to me last night. It reminded me of "The Kissing Hand" because both stories show how much the parents and children love each other.
- D** The commercial for the toothpaste reminded me of the last time I went to the dentist and he told me to brush my teeth more often.
- E** Today at school, my teacher talked about responsibility. It reminded me of the time my parents explained why I have to do my chores.

Three Types of Connections:

1. Text



2. Text

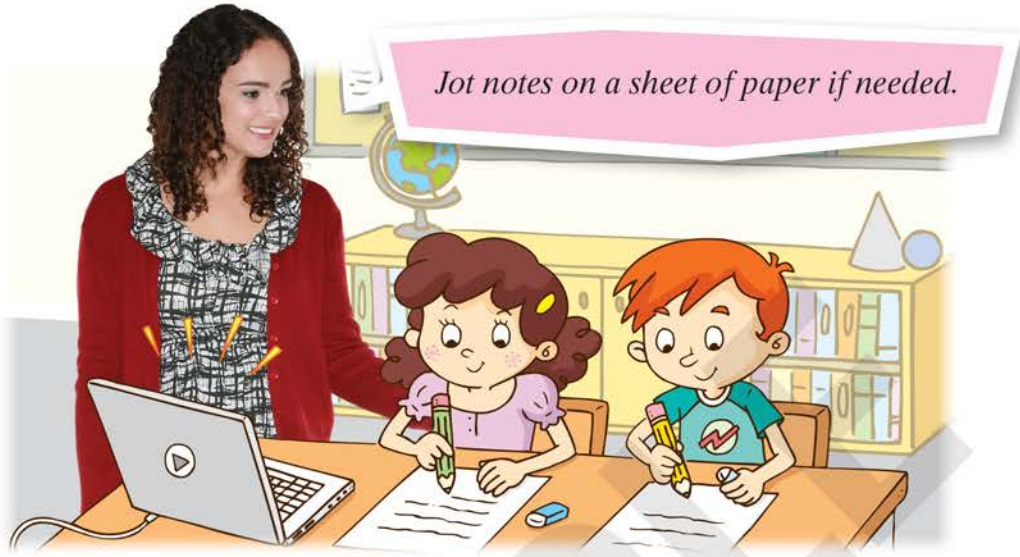


3. Text





D. Listen to the oral text. Then come up with appropriate questions, body language, and connections you can make.



Questions you could ask to clarify meaning:

- _____
- _____

Body language the speaker might use:

- _____
- _____

Connections you can make with the text:

