

PART III

DEVELOPING SPECIFIC LISTENING SKILLS

III-A. Narrative Mapping

All stories have characters. These characters do things that we call events. In a story there is always a problem, and the problem is solved. When you listen to a story, you should pay careful attention to where the story takes place, what the characters are like, what problem happens, and how it is solved.

Listen as your teacher reads you a story called “The Broken Mirror.” Then fill in the answers to questions 1–5.

1. Who are the characters in this story? _____

2. Describe Princess Lechang: _____

3. Describe Xu Deyan: _____

4. What is the problem in this story?

5. How is the problem solved?

Directions: Use the information you have learned about this story and complete the story map below.

CHARACTERS: _____ _____
WHAT IS THE PROBLEM? _____ _____
↓
EVENT 1: _____ _____
↓
EVENT 2: _____ _____
↓
EVENT 3: _____ _____
HOW THE PROBLEM IS SOLVED: _____ _____ _____

DEVELOPING SPECIFIC LISTENING SKILLS . . . CONTINUED

III-A. Narrative Mapping—continued

Your teacher will read a story called “The Little Pine Tree: A German Legend.” As you listen to the story, take notes on a separate sheet of paper. Pay careful attention to who the characters are, what they are like, what the problem is, and how the problem gets solved. After you have listened to the story and have taken your notes, complete the story map below.



CHARACTERS: _____ _____
WHAT IS THE PROBLEM? _____ _____ _____
EVENT 1: _____ _____
EVENT 2: _____ _____
EVENT 3: _____ _____
HOW THE PROBLEM IS SOLVED: _____ _____ _____

DEVELOPING SPECIFIC LISTENING SKILLS . . . CONTINUED

III-B. Sequence

Sequence is the order in which things happen. Just as a story has a beginning, a middle, and an end, passages have details that are presented in a certain order. This order becomes most important when attempting to do something like making cookies. If you do not follow the directions in the exact order that they are given, the cookies will not turn out properly. There are special words that let you know the order in which things happen. These are called **key words**. Here are some examples of key words:

first, second, third, after, before, last, then, finally, now, next, later, following, at the end

Place the following things in the correct order by placing a number 1 next to the first step, then 2 next to the second step, until you get to number 6.

Buying a Birthday Gift

- ___ Now, wrap the present
- ___ Next, save money
- ___ Second, find different prices
- ___ First, think of a gift
- ___ Then, go to the store
- ___ Finally, give the gift



Your teacher will now read a passage called “Getting On the Road.” The first time you hear the passage, pay attention to the order in which things happen. As you listen to the passage a second time, take notes on a separate sheet of paper, paying specific attention to the order in which things happen. After you have taken your notes, place the following details in the order in which they happened.

- ___ Take the road test
- ___ Get a permit
- ___ Study the manual
- ___ Practice driving
- ___ Get your license
- ___ Visit the department of motor vehicles



DEVELOPING SPECIFIC LISTENING SKILLS . . . CONTINUED

III-C. Fact vs. Opinion

There is a difference between fact and opinion.

A fact is something that has been proven to be true. For example, the statement, “George Washington was the first president of the United States,” is a fact.

An opinion is the way someone feels about something. For example, “George Washington was the best president of the United States.” This is an opinion because not everyone may feel this way.

Listed below you will find 10 sentences. Some of these are facts and others are opinions. Place an **F** next to the sentences that are facts and place an **O** next to those that are opinions.

1. Albany is the capital of New York State. _____
2. Nigeria is a country in Africa. _____
3. Sharks live in the ocean. _____
4. Couches are comfortable. _____
5. Ice skating is more interesting to watch than golf. _____
6. Hail is a form of precipitation. _____
7. Snow in the city is ugly. _____
8. Charles Dickens wrote *Oliver Twist*. _____
9. Roses smell good. _____
10. Cake tastes better than pie. _____

Now you are going to listen to a passage called “Baseball—The Best Sport.” As you listen to the passage, you may take notes on a separate sheet of paper. Pay careful attention to which statements are the facts and which are the opinions. After you have listened to the passage and have taken notes, write your responses to the tasks on the following page.

Name five facts from this story:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Name five opinions from this story:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____