**Activities to Enhance Listening Skills**

Informational Interviews

Here are some activities for small and large groups to practice active listening skills.

1. **What’s your passion?**
* Pair up the students
* Have each student spend 3 minutes discussing a hobby or passion. The other student should be listening and might want to take notes.
* After 3 minutes, have the students switch partners and repeat the activity.
* Each student will then share with the class the information they obtained from the interview.
1. **What’s my job?**
	* Pair up the students
	* Give one student a job title with a job description.
	* The student with the job title and job description will start the conversation by providing a clue about the job, for example, "*I sit at a desk most of the day*."
	* The second student will then ask a related question. "*Do you have a computer at your desk?*"
	* This back and forth exchange will continue until the job is guessed.
2. **Change the news.**
	* Divide the class into two groups and tell the students that you will be reading a news article out loud to them.
	* Read the article exactly as it is written
	* Tell the students that you will be rereading the article, but will be changing some of the information
	* Tell the students to raise their hands when they hear something that differs from the first reading
	* The team that identifies the most changes – wins
3. **Continue the story.**
* Run the activity as a whole group
* The first person will start a story with one sentence.
* The next person must add a sentence, but it must start with the last word.
* The process continues until each student has a turn.

**Example:**

Student 1: “*A long time ago we didn’t have* ***cars****.*”

Student 2: “***Cars*** *were needed for transportation to and from* ***towns****.*”

Student 3: “***Towns*** *were far apart from each other.*”

**Modification:**

If you have a large group, you can modify the activity by having each person add one word, instead of a whole sentence.