

The Receiving Stage

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WHAT'S COVERED

In this lesson, you will learn about one of the stages in the listening process. Specifically, this lesson will cover:

1. The Receiving Stage
2. The Challenges of Reception

1. The Receiving Stage

The first stage of the listening process is the **receiving stage**, which involves **hearing** and **attending**.

Hearing is the physiological process of registering sound waves as they hit the eardrum. As obvious as it may seem, in order to effectively gather information through listening, we must first be able to physically hear what we're listening to. The clearer the sound, the easier the listening process becomes.

Paired with hearing, attending is the other half of the receiving stage in the listening process. Attending is the process of accurately identifying and interpreting particular sounds we hear as words. The sounds we hear have no meaning until we give them their meaning in context. Listening is an active process that constructs meaning from both verbal and non-verbal messages.



TERMS TO KNOW

Receiving Stage

The first stage of the listening process, which involves hearing and attending.

Hearing

The physiological process of registering sound waves as they hit the eardrum.

Attending

The process of accurately identifying particular sounds as words.

2. The Challenges of Reception

Listeners are often bombarded with a variety of auditory stimuli all at once, so they must differentiate which of those stimuli are speech sounds and which are not. Effective listening involves being able to focus in on

speech sounds while disregarding other noise.

➦ **EXAMPLE** A train passenger that hears the captain's voice over the loudspeaker understands that the captain is speaking, then deciphers what the captain is saying despite other voices in the cabin.

➦ **EXAMPLE** Imagine trying to listen to a friend tell a story while walking down a busy street. In order to best listen to what she's saying, the listener needs to ignore the ambient street sounds.

Attending also involves being able to discern human speech, also known as speech segmentation. Identifying auditory stimuli as speech but not being able to break those speech sounds down into sentences and words would be a failure of the listening process. Discerning speech segmentation can be a more difficult activity when the listener is faced with an unfamiliar language.



SUMMARY

In this lesson, you learned about **the receiving stage** of the listening process. Hearing is the physiological process of registering sound waves as they hit the eardrum. Attending is the process of accurately identifying particular sounds we hear as words. Attending also involves being able to discern breaks between words, or speech segmentation. You also learned about some **challenges of reception**, including the presence of outside stimuli or a language barrier.

Source: Source: Boundless. "The Receiving Stage." Boundless Communications Boundless, 2 Mar. 2017. Retrieved 28 Jun. 2017 from <https://www.boundless.com/communications/textbooks/boundless-communications-textbook/learning-to-listen-and-helping-others-do-the-same-5/stages-of-listening-30/the-receiving-stage-135-49/>



TERMS TO KNOW

Attending

The process of accurately identifying particular sounds as words.

Hearing

The physiological process of registering sound waves as they hit the eardrum.

Receiving Stage

The first stage of the listening process, which involves hearing and attending.