

Listening and Memory: Two skills that go hand in hand

Listening and memory are often interrelated. When you listen carefully, you are more likely to remember what has been said and to put the information into your long-term memory. The skills of listening and memorizing are important for students in the 21st century.

Why developing good listening and memorization skills is important for all students:

- Students who know how to listen and memorize tend to be higher achievers in school. Teaching all students the difference between hearing and listening is a first step in developing this skill. **Hearing** means having the words go from one's ears into the brain. **Listening** means having the words go into the brain and thinking about them once they're there! Many students hear without listening. Take time to practice the skill of listening with your students. For many this is a lost art. Being a good listener encourages achievement.
- The ability to listen to, process and commit new information to memory quickly so that it is available for recall is an essential 21st century job skill.
- The volume of available information doubles approximately every 14 months. A person who can listen and then incorporate this new information by connecting it to other information already in the brain's memory will be the one who will do well in the Information Age.
- Good listening skills help students in finding relationships between new information and the information they already know. Listening and understanding help the brain form connections and patterns.
- An effective memory and the ability to really listen increase adaptability and creativity. When connections are formed in the memory, new creative possibilities come to mind. Creative thinking is never done on a blank slate. It is done with the resources brought from the memories of past experiences and knowledge.
- Being a good listener and having a good memory are important social and intellectual resources. People who can remember the names of those they've met only once plus something about them are likely to be more successful socially and professionally.

Have a plan to teach listening and memorization skills. Integrate these skills throughout your curriculum and your school day. This is one of the easiest and most effective strategies for encouraging achievement.
