



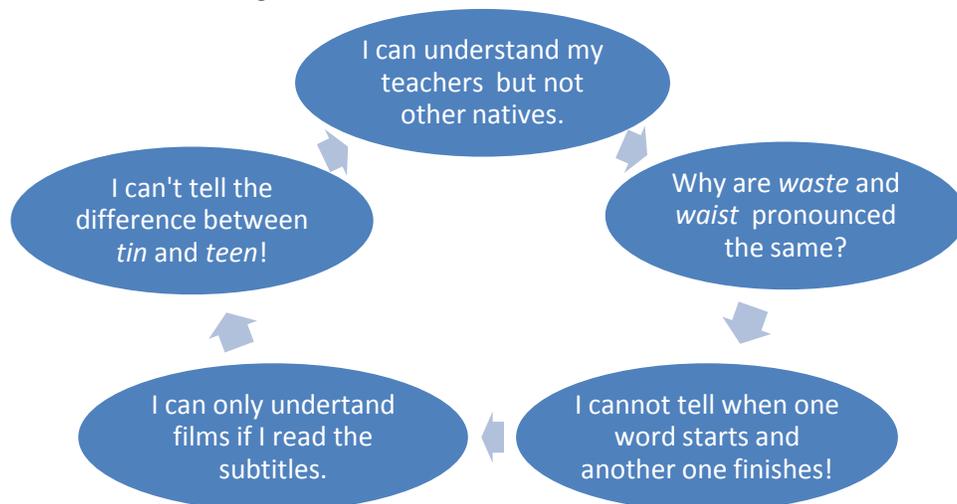
Why is listening comprehension so hard?

Business English students often ask me this so I decided to look for answers and have come up with nine reasons why people find oral English difficult.

Why is listening so hard?

I've written ten short articles on why oral English is so hard and on how to improve comprehension –nine for each reason plus this introduction.

Let's start with a few quotes from students, which somehow describe their frustration with listening.



Unfortunately, listening comprehension cannot be taught. It must be learnt by students on their own. It's like riding a bicycle. Theory and explanations don't help. You fall many times but at the end you are able to keep your balance.

Here's why it's so hard.

Sound	Vocabulary & Grammar	Culture
Different speakers mean different accents.	Native speakers use very complicated words.	Intonation and gestures are difficult to understand.
Identical pronunciations reflect diverse spellings.	It's hard to know which words are important.	Students often get nervous and lose concentration.
It's impossible to differentiate some sounds.	English changes fast and doesn't follow grammar rules.	There are cultural aspects that many people don't grasp.

Want to learn more? Click below for the article on different accents and on strategies to improve your listening comprehension.

Listening to different accents: <http://www.englishfb.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Listening-to-Different-Accents-by-AD-Miles.pdf>



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