

Note-taking for Lectures and Talks TASKS

Academic Listening – Note-taking

Practice your note-taking by focusing on what's important. To do this, you need to understand what the person is talking about, and you do this by preparing for the lecture. This activity helps you prepare for lectures

Task 1 Internal discussion questions:

1. What problems do you have with listening in English?
2. How can you overcome these problems?
3. In what ways might lectures be easier/more difficult than general conversation?
4. What is the purpose of a lecture?



Preparation for lectures

A good student will NEVER enter a lecture cold. Reading should be completed **BEFORE** a lecture. The lecture should consolidate what you have read and answer any questions your reading brought up.

Note-taking during lectures (1)

Task 2: Decide if you agree or disagree with the following:

- a) It's impossible to listen effectively if you're taking notes at the same time.
- b) I like to take notes in my own language and translate later.
- c) I try to write everything down.
- d) I use abbreviations whenever I can.
- e) I always review my notes after the lecture.

Task 3: Watch this video on note-taking using The Cornell Method. Ensure you have a blank piece of paper and follow the instructions.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtW9lyE04OQ>

Task 4: Listening and note-taking – Talk by an authentic speaker on the purpose of education.

Preparation

- a) What do I already know?
- b) Preparatory reading. Skim the text to find out more about Chomsky. What are the main ideas presented in this reading? How far do you agree/disagree with him?
- c) Before you listen, write 3 questions you hope his talk will answer.

Listening

- d) Listen to the talk and use the Cornell method to take notes
- e) Compare your notes with a partner.

Noam Chomsky – The Purpose of Education <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-QkhJTHp5r8>

Some language for reporting a speaker's words

- Chomsky believes
- In Chomsky's view,
- Chomsky suggests that
- Chomsky is highly critical of
- Chomsky claims
- Chomsky identifies

Post-Listening

How easy/difficult did you find this to understand?

How do you plan to improve your listening in the next weeks?