

NON-LISTENING ACTIVITY
GROUP ROLE PLAY

YOUR ROLE AS A LISTENER: Do not share your role with the class.

PSEUDO-LISTENER: This role will not be acted out in your group, but you need to know it for the exam.

Pseudo means false. As a good pseudo-listener you are going to give the appearance of being attentive. You will look the speaker in the eye, nod and smile at the right times. But actually, you are going to thinking of about something entirely different and will not be listening to the speaker at all. However the speaker will not have a feeling for that because you are so good at giving the appearance of being interested (through your nonverbal communication). They will never know that you aren't really listening. (You might doodle during the session, etc.)

STAGE HOGGER: Stage hoggers are interested only in expressing their ideas and don't care about what anyone else has to say. You might allow people to speak from time to time, but only so you can catch your breath or so that you can use their remarks as a basis for your own babbling. You will interrupt as well. (You might try to change the subject from what the "victim" is trying to talk about.)

DEFENSIVE LISTENER: As a defensive listener, you will take innocent comments as personal attacks. If you have any insecurities, you will react defensively when they are brought up. For example, the teenager who hates school and homework, when asked in an innocent manner, "So, how's the homework going?" will respond by shouting, "I'm going to do it, okay?"

AMBUSER: As an ambusher in the group, you will listen to what people have to say, but you will try to find ways to use what they say against them. Think of the prosecuting attorney in court who uses what the defendant has said against them.

INSENSITIVE LISTENER: As an insensitive listener, you will ignore the feelings being expressed and dismiss those feelings as being "stupid" or "irrational."

Example: Your friend has just broken up with their significant other and they are in great pain because of this. You never liked their significant other and are secretly happy that they broke up. Your response is something like: "You're better off without them." "What's your problem? It's about time!"

GROUPS WITH FIVE (5) MEMBERS CHOOSE ONE OR THE OTHER OF THE FOLLOWING TWO ROLES.

SELECTIVE LISTENER: As a selective listener, you will respond only to the parts of people's remarks that interest you and you will reject everything else. You might only pay attention to your partner when the subject turns to your favorite topic - perhaps money, sex, a hobby or some particular person. (Define what interest is and only respond to that.)

INSULATED LISTENER: Whenever a topic arises that you'd rather not deal with, you simply fail to hear it or acknowledge it. If you are reminded of a problem with poor grades or unfinished jobs, for example, you might nod or give a polite answer, but then you will promptly forget what has just been said.