

ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOCUS SUMMER SCHOOL
MASARYK JULY 2019



Listening Skills

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BEFORE WE START

Please think of three facts
– or pieces of information
– that you want to share
with the group

IN THIS WORKSHOP

- Listening Skills in a 2nd language
- Fact-finding exercise
- Listening for meaning (Ted Talk)

LISTENING SKILLS IN A 2ND LANGUAGE (1)

- Write down 5 habits you have that distract you from listening and five techniques you have to help you concentrate when listening.

LISTENING SKILLS IN A 2ND LANGUAGE

(2)

- Hearing versus listening
- Research on the speaker – what do you expect from them?
- Native or non-native level speaker?
- What questions do you want answering?
- What background vocabulary might be useful?
- Don't focus too much at the “word level”
- Key words and key phrases. What gets repeated?

FACT-FINDING EXERCISE

- You're at a "cocktail party". Meet as many people as possible and listen to their facts.
- One person will "volunteer" from the cocktail party. Who can tell the rest of the group what this person's interesting facts were?
- A few more "volunteers".
- **What techniques did you use to remember the "volunteers" facts.**

LISTENING FOR MEANING

- You are going to watch a TED talk and then report back on what you have heard (and seen!).
- First read some background information about the speaker.
- What do you think you can expect from the presentation?

ABOUT GABRIEL WYNER

- Gabriel Wyner is an author, opera singer and polyglot based in Los Angeles, CA. After not getting anywhere in 5 years of high school language classes, he reached fluency in German in 14 weeks with the help of the immersive Middlebury Language Schools. As a result, he fell in love with the process of language learning, going on to spend two months in intensive Italian courses in Perugia, Italy. Searching for ways to bring the immersion experience into the home, he began to develop a system that rapidly builds fluency in short, daily sessions. In 2010, his efforts paid off. He learned French to fluency in 5 months, and then Russian in 10 months.

Born in Los Angeles, Gabriel graduated summa cum laude in 2007 from the University of Southern California with dual degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Vocal Arts Performance, and was awarded the Renaissance Scholar's prize for excellence in unrelated disciplines. He then moved to Vienna to pursue triple Master's degrees at the Konservatorium Wien in Opera, Lieder and Voice, and graduated with honors in 2011.

Currently learning Japanese, Gabe learned Hungarian and Spanish between 2013-2017. His book on language learning - *Fluent Forever: How to learn a language fast and never forget it* - was released in 2014 and became a WSJ and USA Today national bestseller. In 2017, he launched the most successful crowdfunding campaign for an app in history, raising more than \$1.7 million dollars to create The Fluent Forever App. It is currently in public beta testing here: [Fluent-Forever.app](https://www.fluent-forever.com).

LISTENING FOR MEANING

As you watch the talk, use any listening skills that you think may be useful. Note-taking (in English) may be useful!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBMfg4WkK>

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LISTENING FOR MEANING

- With a partner (or in a small group), combine your notes and listening skills to produce a short introduction for Gabriel Wyner's presentation. (no more than 150 words). Can you come up with the most important points in so short a word count?

ACTUAL INTRODUCTION TO THE TALK

- The only barrier to learning a language is memory. The process of language learning is the process of forming memories. Nothing more, nothing less. If you understand that, and you understand how memories are formed, then you can make progress in a way you've never dreamed possible before.

What can you take
away from this
workshop?