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Last updated on October 22, 2020 How would you feel if you shared a personal story and noticed that the person you're talking to doesn't really listen? You probably won't be too excited. Unfortunately, that is the case of many. Most individuals are not good listeners. They're good pretenders. The problem is, listening properly requires work - more work than people are willing to invest. The quality of the conversation is about giving and losing. Most people, however, just want to give their words, that is. Being at the receiving end as the listener may sound boring, but it is essential. When you're interested in someone and paying attention to what they're saying, it's a sign of care and respect. The hitch is that attendance requires an act of will, which sometimes goes against what our minds naturally do—roaming around aimlessly and thinking about whatnot, instead of listening to the greatest-act of thoughtfulness. Without active listening, people often feel i hearless and unacknowledged. That's why it's important for everyone to learn how to be a better listener. What makes the listener poor? Good listening skills can be learned, but first, let's consider some things you might be doing that make you a hearing loss.1. Want to talk to YourselfWell, who doesn't? We all have something to say, don't we? But when you're looking at someone pretending to listen while, all along, they're mentally planning all the great things that they're going to say, it's a deed for the speaker. Well, perhaps what others are saying is not the most interesting thing in the world. However, they deserve to be heard. You always have the ability to direct the conversation in a different direction by asking questions. It's okay to talk. That's normal, even. However, keep in mind that when it's your turn, you'll want someone to listen to you.2. You disagree with what is being saidThis is one thing that makes you an inadequate listener—hear something that you disagree with and immediately tune out. Then you lie waiting so you can tell the person how wrong they are. You are eager to make your point and prove the person speaking wrong. You think once you tell your truth, others will know how confused the speakers are, thank you for setting them straight, and encourage you to build on what you have to say. Dream. Disagreeing with your speakers, however frustrating that may be, is no reason to tune them out and ready yourself to spray your incredible rebuttal. By listening, you can actually gather an interesting information that you didn't know before.3. You are doing five other things while you are listeningNot being able to hear someone while you are texting, play Sudoku, etc. But people do it all the time, I know I have. I was actually trying to balance my checkbook while pretending to listen to people on other lines. We didn't have a good time. I had to keep asking, what did you do you I can only admit this now because I rarely do it anymore. With my work, I succeeded in becoming a better listener. It takes a lot of focus, but it's definitely worth it. If you're really going to listen, then you have to: listen! M. Scott Peck, M.D., in his book The Road Less Travel, says, you can't really listen to anyone and do anything else at once. If you're too busy to really listen, let the talker know, and arrange for another time to talk. It's as simple as that!4. You appoint yourself as a Judge While you are listening, you decide that the sayer does not know what they are talking about. As an expert, you know more. So what's the point of even listening? For you, the only sound you hear once you decide they're wrong is, Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah! But before you state that gavel, just know you may not have all the necessary information. To do that, you're going to have to really listen, right? Also, make sure you don't judge someone in their accent, how they sound, or the structure of their sentences. My father was almost 91 years old. His English is sometimes a bit broken and confusing. People mistakenly think he doesn't know what he's talking about, they're totally wrong. My father was a very intelligent man whose English was his second language. He knows what he says and understands the language perfectly. Remember that when listening to a foreigner, or someone who probably has a hard time putting their thoughts into words. Now, you know some of the things that make a listener inferior. If none of the items above resonate with you, great! You are a better listener than most. How to be a better listener For the sake of conversation, however, let's just say that maybe you need some work in the listening department, and after reading this article, you make a decision to improve. What, then, are some of the things you need to do to make that happen? How can you be a better listener?1. AttentionA good listener is attentive. They don't look at the clock, phone or think about their dinner plans. They are focused and paying attention to what others are saying. This is called active listening. According to Skills You Need, active listening involves listening to all senses. As well as paying full attention to the person speaking, it is important that 'active listeners' are also 'seen' to listen – otherwise, the spoken person may conclude that what they are talking about is not interesting to the listener. As I mentioned, it is normal for the mind to wander. We're human, after all. But a person who listens well will refrain from thinking back as soon as they notice their attention weakening. I would like to note here that you can also listen to body signals. You can determine that if someone continues to look at their watch or on their shoulder, their focus is not the conversation. It is important to pay attention only.2. Use body language positiveYou can infer a lot from a person's body language. Do they care, are they depressed, no, Worry? A good listener's body language is open. They lean forward and show curiosity in what is being said. Their facial expressions are either smiling, expressing interest, conveying sympathy, etc. They're telling the talker that they're being heard. People say things for a reason—they want some kind of feedback. For example, you tell your spouse, I had a really hard day! and your husband continues to check his newsfeed while nodding. Not a good response. But what if your husband looked up with his eyes questioning, put the phone down and said, Oh, no. What happened? So how does it feel? The answer is obvious. According to Alan Gurney, A listener actively pay full attention to the person who speaks and ensures they understand the information provided. You can't be distracted by calls to or Facebook status updates. You must be present and in the moment. Body language is an important tool to ensure you do this. Accurate body language makes you a better-functioning listener and therefore 'open-minded' and receives what the speakers are saying. At the same time, it indicates that you are listening to them. 3. Avoid interrupting LoaT I'm sure you won't want to be in the middle of a sentence just to see someone else holding a finger or their mouth open, ready to step into your unfinished verbiage. It's rude and disturbing. You will, more than likely, feel the need to rush what you are saying just to finish your sentence. Disruption is a sign of disrespect. Basically it says, what I have to say is much more important than what you are saying. When you interrupt the speakers, they feel frustrated, rushed, and in critical. Interrupting a person's speech to agree, disagree, argue, etc., causes the person who speaks to lose track of what they are saying. It's extremely frustrating. Anything you have to say can wait until someone else is done. Be polite and wait your turn!4. Asking questionsOn the same question is one of the best ways to show your interest. If someone is telling you about their ski trip to Mammoth, don't reply to, that's nice. That would show a lack of interest and disrespect. Instead, you might ask, how long have you been skiing? Do you find it difficult to learn? What's your favorite part of the trip? Etc. He or she will appreciate you and consider you a great conversational person just by asking you a few questions.5. Just hearing this sounds counter-intuitive. When you're chatting with someone, it's usually back and down. Occasionally, all that is required of you is to listen, smile, or nod your head, and your speakers will feel like they are actually being heard and understood. I used to sit with a client for 45 minutes without saying a word. She came into my office in distress. I told her to sit down, and then she started crying gently. I sat with That's all I've done. At the end of the session, she stood, told me that she felt much better, and then left. I must admit that 45 minutes without a very difficult word. But she doesn't need me to say anything. She needs a safe space in which she can express without interruption, judgment, or I am trying to fix something.6. Remember and Follow Part of being a great listener is remembering what the person said told you, then following up with them. For example, in a recent conversation you had with your colleague Jacob, he told you that his wife was getting a promotion and that they were scheduled to move to New York. The next time you run into Jacob, you might want to say, Hey, Jacob! What happened to your wife's promotion? At this point, Jacob will know you really hear what he says and that you're interested to see how things turn out. What a gift! According to new research, those who ask questions, especially the next one, can become better managers, land better jobs, and even win on Mondays. It is very simple to show you the interest. Just remember a few facts and follow them. If you do this often, you will make more friends.7. Keep information confidential if you really want to be a better listener, listen carefully. If what you're hearing is secret, keep it that way, no matter how attractive it can be to others, especially if you have friends in common. Being a good listener means being trustworthy and sensitive to shared information. Anything that is told to you in confidence is not to be revealed. Assure your sayer that their information is safe to you. They will feel relieved when they have someone with whom they can share their burden without fear of it escaping. Keeping someone's confidence helps deepen your relationship. In addition, one of the most important elements of security is that it helps build and develop trust. It has the ability to allow free flow of information between customers and employees and acknowledge that the personal lives of customers and all the problems and problems with which they have belonged to them. Be like a therapist: listen and with hold back judgment. NOTE: I must add here that while therapists keep everything in a secret session, there are exceptions: If the client can be an immediate danger to himself or others. If the customer is endangering a population that cannot protect itself, such as in the case of child or elderly abuse. 8. Maintain eye contactWhen someone is talking, they often say something they think makes sense. They don't want their listeners to read a text, look at their nails, or bend down to pet a pooch in the street. One said he wanted all eyes on them. It tells them that what they are saying is valuable. Eye contact is very strong. It can forward many things without anything being said. We it is more important than ever with the Covid-19 Epidemic. People can't see your entire face, but they can definitely read your eyes. By eye contact, I don't mean a hard, scary look—just a look in the direction of the person the said will do. Make it a point the next time you're in a to maintain eye contact with your speakers. Avoid the temptation to look anywhere but in their faces. I know it's not easy, especially if you're not interested in what they're talking about. But as I said, you can redirect the conversation in a different direction or show that person you have to start. Final thoughtsListening intently will add to your connection with anyone in your life. Now, more than ever, when people are disconnected due to smartphones and social media, listening skills are crucial. You can build better, more honest and deeper relationships by simply being there, paying attention and asking questions that make the speaker feel like what they have to say. And isn't that a great goal? To make people feel as if they matter? So go out and start honing your listening skills. You have great ears. Now use them! More tips on How to Become a Better Photo Credit: Joshua Rodriguez via unsplash.com unsplash.com