

Are You Listening?



OBJECTIVE:

A lesson to improve listening skills and the ability to look at things differently.

Listening is one of the key components of effective communication. This activity concentrates on an effective way for students to learn this important skill and understand that everyone sees things from different perspectives.

Understanding that we all may listen to things differently at one point or another is part of life. Although we may listen and see things differently, this does not necessarily mean that your perception is wrong and that mine is right.



LESSON:

1. Have a student stand at the front of the class and give that student a drawing. (Line drawing of objects such as a boat, dog, snowman, kite, flower etc.) Do not let the student show the others what the picture is.
2. Hand out blank pieces of paper to the rest of the students and have them take out a pencil or marker to draw with.
3. Instruct the students that the leader at the front of the class will try to describe the drawing to the students without telling them what it is.
4. The other students will listen to his/her instructions to draw the picture without looking at the leader's drawing.
5. Once the leader has completed his/her description of the picture and the other students have completed their drawings, ask the students to take turns holding up their pictures to show the rest of the class.



QUESTIONS:

Ask the students whether it was hard or easy to draw the picture by just listening. Why or Why not?

Why did some people draw the picture differently than others? Is there a correct way to see the picture?

Do you feel differently towards those who drew the picture differently?

DISCUSSION:

Ask the students if they know what the word “perspectives” means. Explain that considering different perspectives means exploring different point of views or ways that we can sometimes view the same picture or situation different ways. Point out to the students that considering different perspective requires that you listen and pay close attention to actions, reactions and behaviors of others.

Discuss with the students that seeing things differently does not necessarily mean that someone is right or wrong.

Ask the students if there ever was a time when they saw something one way and someone else saw it differently?

How did you feel about the person who saw that situation differently?

CLOSURE:

If it’s true that two people can look at (or draw) the same picture and see something different without either being wrong, how might this affect a conflict?

What if each person sees the situation a different way? How can they figure out a resolution to the conflict if they are both right about what they see?

ACTIVITY:

Emotions - This activity teaches students to recognize that sometimes we need to see things from a different perspective or another person’s point of view. When conflicts arise, understanding how others view an issue can be beneficial.

We may see things very differently than someone else views the picture. Listening and talking things out can help us to view things from a different perspective and understand the situation better.

Hand out the “Emotions” worksheet provided in this lesson [here](#) and ask the students to look at each picture and write what an emotion under each of the pictures that they feel best describes that image.

After the group has completed the worksheet, discuss each of them as a class and compare the different perspectives that each of the students may have had. Someone may have felt that the image showed anger while others may have seen the image as surprised, frustrated or scared.

Discuss with the students that it can be hard to think about someone else’s view of a situation. Every person sees things differently. We may not always agree with a person but we can always listen to their perspective and try to come to an understanding, especially in times of conflict.

