

Active listening

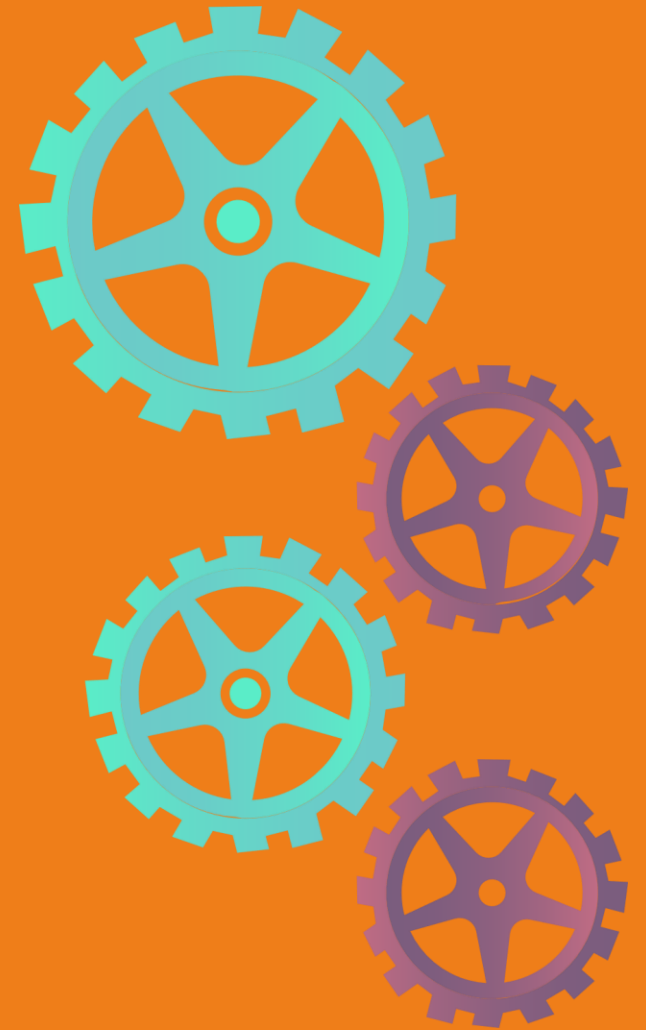
List of activities to promote active listening

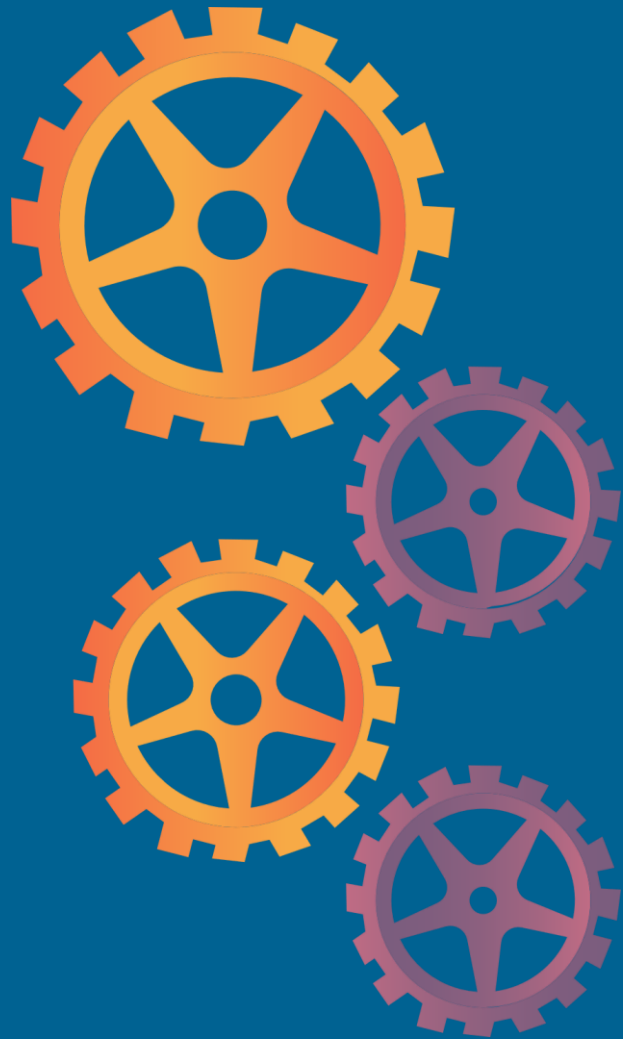
Davide Diletti
Consorzio Ro.Ma.



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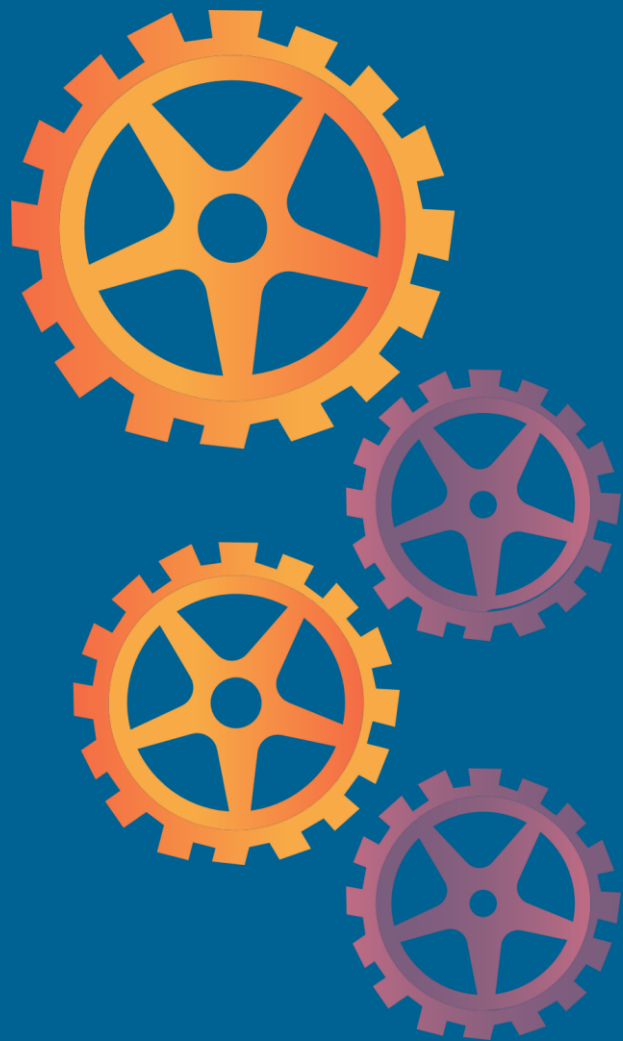
- List of activities to promote active listening;
 - Blindfolded;
 - Back to back;
 - Play the quiet game.





Blindfolded

Arrange your classroom in a way that is unfamiliar to the students, making sure that it is safe to get around. Have students pair up. One will wear a blindfold while the other is to function as the “eyes” and stand in a designated space. The goal is for the eyes to guide the blindfolded partner through the classroom through a specific path using only words. The fewer guidelines you provide, the more creative the students’ methods will be.

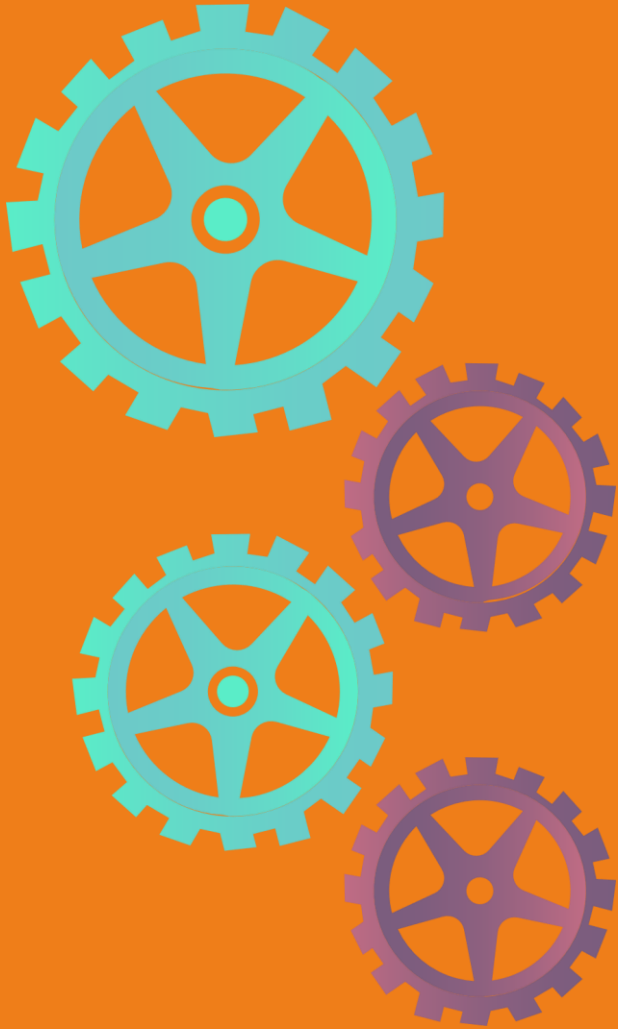


Blindfolded

If you are nervous about students bumping into desks or chairs, or don't feel like rearranging your classroom, you can also adapt this activity into a more stationary one. Instead of having one student guide another through the classroom, have them direct their blindfolded partner to drawing a simple picture, like of a house or a dog. The trick is that only the "eyes" can know what the drawing is supposed to be of, and can only give simple directions ("draw a circle, draw a horizontal line, etc.). You'll end up with some creative interpretations for sure!

Back to back

Again, students work in pairs and sit back-to-back. One describes a nonsensical drawing or diagram that is not easily replicated while the other student makes his or her best attempt at recreating the partner's directions. Another variation is for the partners to try to fold a piece of paper in the same way without looking. The team whose pieces of paper are the closest match wins.



Play the quiet game

Nonverbal communication is just as important, and it's easy to provide students with practice in following nonverbal cues: just don't speak. At the start of a class period, use signals to let students know that the day will be spent using nonverbal communication, then continue to use signals throughout class when direction is required. Make it known that you expect them to do the same. Everyone will be amazed at how quickly a class "language" built on signals and nonverbal cues begins to form.

If you don't feel like teaching a whole lesson without speaking, you can also try having your students group up and handing them something like a section of the days lesson or a short story or scene, and instructing them to review the material carefully as a group. Then, have each group give a short presentation-without speaking-on what they learned. Can the rest of the class understand what they are trying to communicate?

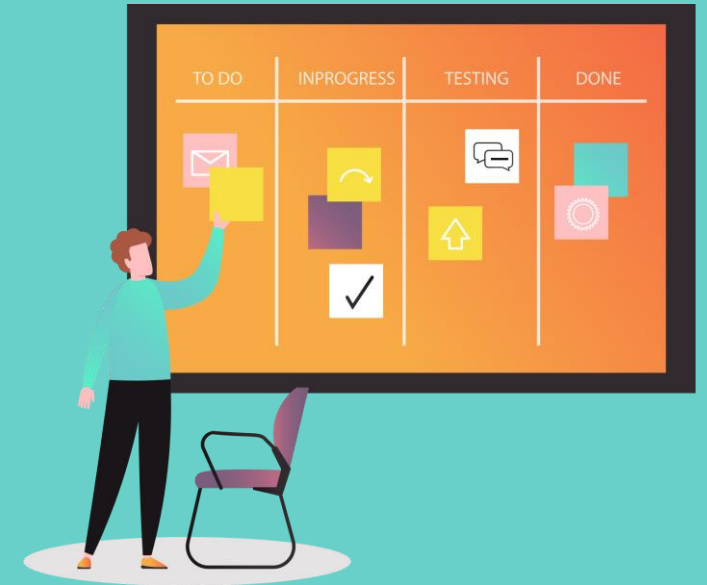


References

- Sterling, S. (2022, September 8). Activities to improve your students' communication skills. Edmentum Blog. Retrieved November 4, 2022, from <https://blog.edmentum.com/activities-improve-your-students%E2%80%99-communication-skills>

Insert title

Insert subtitle



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