

Listening Signals

Your instructor is not going to send up a rocket when she/he states an important new idea or gives an example, but will use signals to telegraph what she/he is doing. Every good speaker does it, and you should expect to receive these signals. For example, she/he may introduce an example with "for example" as we just did. Other common signals are:

"There are three reasons why..." (here they come)

"First...Second...Third..." (there they are)

"And most important..."

"A major development..." (a main idea)

She/he may signal the sending of support material with:

"On the other hand..." "Similarly..."

"On the contrary..." "In contrast..."

"As an example..." "Also..."

"Further..." "Furthermore..."

"For example..." "For instance..."

She/he may signal a conclusion or summary with:

"Therefore..." "Finally..."

"In conclusion..." "In summary..."

"As a result..." "From this we see..."

She/he may even signal very loud with:

"Now this is important..."

"Remember that..."

"The important idea is that..."

"The basic concept here is..."

Signals are usually ignored by those who do not know how to listen ... or listen effectively. Expect signals and be alert when you receive them.