

# LISTENING BLOCKS

We cannot listen effectively to others if we are busy concentrating on the following ideas:

1. "I must defend my position." Listen to what the other person is saying. Their viewpoint will never make sense to you if all you are worried about is defending your own viewpoint.
2. "I'm looking for an entrance into the conversation." Don't be more concerned with what you have to say than what is being said.
3. "I don't have time to listen to you." If the current time is not convenient, simply tell the other person that another time would be better, that you are busy right now.
4. "I already know what you have to say." You don't know what another person is going to say until they have said it. Listen!
5. "I know what you should do." Don't give advice unless it is asked for.

## LISTENING ACTIVITY

Ask for eight volunteers (these students should have good self-esteem). Have one person act as the speaker. He/she should begin talking about his/her favorite subject until the teacher stops the activity. Other members of the group should be given one of the instructions listed below.

Have the class observe the conversation and identify what distracting behavior each person is portraying. Discuss how the actions make it difficult to really hear what someone is saying.

1. Stand or sit as far away from the person as you can without being rude.
2. Do not look at the speaker. You may contribute to the conversation, but do not have any eye contact with them.
3. Do not say anything to the speaker. You may smile or laugh, but do not say anything verbally.
4. Act bored with what the speaker is saying. Tap your fingers or twiddle your thumbs, but act bored.
5. Keep interrupting the speaker—do not let the speaker finish what he/she is trying to say.
6. Start reading a book or writing on a piece of paper. Talk to the speaker when appropriate, but continue to write or read.
7. Carry on a normal conversation with the speaker.