

Family- Extended Speaking & Active Listening Practice

Choose one of the topics below and speak about it as long as you can. Your partner will try to use as many of the active listening phrases below as they can. If you think they use it in the right way, cross it off the list. Then switch roles and do the same.

Family members

A sibling
A cousin
A parent
A grandparent
A great-grandparent
A great-great-grandparent
A distant relative/ A distant relation
An ancestor
A niece or nephew
An in-law
An uncle or aunt
A relationship between two of my relatives
My spouse/ partner
An ex
The black sheep of my family

Things that family members do to each other/ Verbs about the relationships between people

Something that people in my family fell out over/ A falling out
Something my family got at me about/ Some criticism from my family
Something my family encouraged me to do
Someone in my family I look(ed) up to
Someone in my family who (really) influences/ influenced me
Something I clashed with my family about
Something I competed with a family member about
Someone I grew/ have grown apart from
When someone in my family bullied me
When someone in my family stuck up for me

Adjectives describing the relationships between people in family

An important relationship when I was growing up
Someone in my family who I am/ was (especially) close to
Someone in my family who I'm not/ I wasn't (especially) close to
Something my parents were strict about
Someone who was indulgent towards someone else
A supportive family member

Ask about any topics above which you can't understand, briefly speaking about each one when you have understood what it means.

Suggested active listening phrases

Inviting someone to tell their anecdote/ continue their anecdote	Showing you're listening/ Not listening in silence
And did you/ she/ he/ they? And then? But why? Carry on! Do tell! Go on! How did... feel about that? How did... react? So, did...? So, what did... say (about that)? Tell me more! What did you do (next)? What happened (next/ then)?	Absolutely! Did you? Do you think so? Got it. Great! Honestly? I know just what you mean. I know what you mean. I know! I see what you mean. I suppose so, yeah. I'm shocked! Is that a fact? Is that right? Me too. Mmmm hmmm Nice! No kidding. No! Of course. Oh yeah? Okay. Really? Right. Seriously? Sounds... Sure. Urgh! What the??? Wow! Yeah (yeah) (yeah). You did what (now)? You didn't!/ He didn't!/ She didn't! You surprise me! You think so? You're kidding? Yuck! Yup. <i>NOT I see X NOT Understand X</i>

Were there any phrases above which you couldn't use?

Brainstorming active listening phrases

Without looking above, brainstorm suitable phrases into the gaps below. Phrases not above are also possible.

Inviting someone to tell their anecdote/ continue their anecdote	Showing you're listening/ Not listening in silence

Use the mixed phrases on the next page to help with the task above, then check with the second page. Note that many could go in either column, but if they are clearly asking someone to speak they are written in the right-hand column above.



Mixed active listening phrases

Absolutely!
And then?
Carry on!
Do tell!
Go on!
Great!
Honestly?
How did... feel about that?
How did... react?
I know just what you mean.
I know what you mean.
I know!
I see what you mean.
I suppose so, yeah.
I'm shocked!
Is that a fact?
Is that right?
Me too.
Mmmm hmmm
Nice!
No kidding.
No!
Of course.
Oh yeah?
Okay.
Really?
Right.
Seriously?
So, did...?
So, what did... say (about that)?
Sounds...
Sure.
Tell me more!
Urgh!
What did you do (next)?
What happened (next/ then)?
What the???

Wow!
Yeah (yeah) (yeah).
You did what (now)?
You didn't!/ He didn't!/ She didn't!
You surprise me!
You think so?
You're kidding?
Yuck!
Yup.

And did you/ she/ he/ they?
But why?
Did you?
Do you think so?
Got it.

Family vocabulary brainstorming stage

Without looking above for now, brainstorm as many suitable words and expressions as you can into each gap below.

Family members

Things that family members do to each other/ Verbs about the relationships between people

Adjectives describing the relationships between people in family

Compare your ideas with the previous page, then brainstorm more ideas.

Do the same extended speaking activity as before, but this time without looking at the suggested active listening phrases. Instead, just tick each time you use an active listening phrase which no one else has during the activity. The person with most ticks at the end is the winner.