

Passive listeners

Examine the list below. Beside each one of the characteristics of passive listening, put a check mark if you have acted in this way before, even sometime.

1. A poor listener often does not know how to respond.
2. Poor listeners haven't had good training in listening.
3. Poor listeners often answer with simple answers.
4. Past hurts could have caused poor listeners to withdraw.
5. Egotists are poor listeners.
6. Selfishness listens poorly.
7. Blamers are poor listeners.
8. Hostility blocks listening.
9. Poor listeners think a lot.
10. Opinionated persons are poor listeners.
11. Preoccupied persons are poor listeners.
12. Poor listeners can't see how to make conversation a two-way street.
13. Poor listeners space out instead of zero in on feelings.
14. Listening is difficult for the person who has insulated his feelings because of past hurts
15. Poor listeners miss out by not asking questions.
16. Poor listeners often make others mad with their responses
17. Deficiencies in listening are not related to intelligence.
18. Shy people are often poor listeners, even if they appear to be listening.
19. Grudge-carrying is related to poor listening.

Is there anyone who actually had none of these skills marked? Who has more than 5 poor listening characteristics we need to take before the Lord in prayer, confessing our selfishness, and asking for HIS help to be better listeners. Let's take time for a silent prayer.

Characteristics of Active listeners

It's not all bad news! I am sure that we all have many characteristics of an active and caring listener. Good conversationalists think of others. On the next page is the list of traits generally found in a good listener. Take a moment to put a check mark beside those traits that you feel that you possess by God's grace.

1. They are generally good conversationalists.
2. They know how to ask questions as well as talk.
3. Good listeners care for others.
4. Good listeners compliment.
5. Active Listeners are teachable and inquiring, conversations are often much like pursuing learning.
6. Active Listeners are more other-oriented.
7. Active Listeners create conversation.
8. Active Listeners encourage self-disclosure.
9. Active Listeners make others feel good.
10. Active Listeners are reflective; meaning that the listener rephrases what has been heard.
11. Active Listeners enable the talker to expand the subject with more information.
12. Active Listening tosses in a positive verbal response to assure the speaker that s/he's still being heard.
13. Active Listening is therapeutic; meaning that it enables another person to get rid of pent-up feelings.
14. Active Listening is rhetorical; meaning that it elicits further disclosures.
15. Active Listeners are fully sensitive to others needs and feelings.
16. Active Listeners are more extraverted, more outgoing with their interest in other person's activities.
17. Active Listeners pursue their negative opposition and defuse their arguments.
18. Something old has to be put away (hurt, hate, grudges, past) and something new has to be implanted (love for others) in order to effectually become an "active listener."

How many of you possess half or more of the 'good listening' techniques? I know that I for one, have a lot of work to do!

Are you an active listener?

In the previous lists, we simply identified characteristics that we possess. We are now going to take a quiz that will show us more specifically where or listening falls in comparison to society in general. The purpose of this quiz is help us be more self aware of the times we do NOT display the love and care of the Lord with those around us.

Pick out the most appropriate response. Write the number of that response in the space provided by that statement.

0=Never, 1=Rarely, 2=Occasionally, 3=Sometimes, 4=Frequently, 5=Almost always

1. ___ I enjoy listening to people talk.
2. ___ I ask questions to get conversation going.
3. ___ I learn a lot when I am talking with people.
4. ___ I wait for the other person to stop before I talk.
5. ___ I withhold my opinions to keep conversation going.
6. ___ I turn directly toward the person when I listen.
7. ___ I say, "I know how you feel..." sentences.
8. ___ I paraphrase what I hear, to show I've been listening. (like -- "What I hear you say is that...", etc.)
9. ___ I probe people for both content and feelings.
10. ___ I do the above things with persons of every age.

_____ TOTAL

Take this total and find your own percentage score in the chart below. The raw scores can range up to 50 points. The percentile score indicates whether you are in the low, middle, or high levels, whether you are among the worst or the best listeners, or somewhere I the middle.

DETERMINE YOUR LEVEL

If your raw score is between 0 and 10 it is in the 1st percentile, which means 99 out of 100 "listen" better than you.

If your raw score is between 21 and 27 it is below the 10th percentile, which means 90 out of 100 "listen" better than you.

If your raw score is between 28 and 30 it is in the 20th percentile, which means that 80 out of 100 "listen" better than you.

If your raw score is between 31 and 32 it is in the 30th percentile which means that 70 out of 100 "listen" better than you.

If your score is between 33 and 35 it is in the the 45th percentile, which means that 55 out of 100 "listen" better than you.

If your score is between 36 and 37 it is in the 60th percentile, which means that 40 out of 100 "listen" better than you.

If your score is between 38 and 40 it is in the 70th percentile, which means that 30 out of 100 "listen" better than you.

If your score is between 41 and 42 it is in the 80th percentile, which means that 20 out of 100 "listen" better than you.

If your score is between 43 and 45 it is in the 95th percentile, which means that 5 out of 100 "listen" better than you.

If your score is between 46 and 47 it is in the 97th percentile, which means that 3 out of 100 "listen" better than you.

If your score is between 48 and 50 it is in the 99th percentile, which means that only 1 out of 100 "listen" better than you.