

Listen Up

One Finger at a Time!

Overview: Because we are very visual learners we often ignore or forget that we can learn a lot by listening. Having eyes closed helps focus on sounds. This activity is good at any grade level, but is especially good for building vocabulary with young students.

Materials: None required

Time: 5 minutes

Action:

- Circle Up and ask students to hold their hands at chest height and make two fists, then close their eyes.
- Now, direct them to raise a finger each time they hear a new sound.
- Who can raise the most fingers?
- Ask students to share their observations. What sounds did they hear? What made the sounds? What was the location of the sound? Was the sound natural or human-made? Can you mimic the sound of the machine, car or bird?

Vocabulary:

Words to describe location or direction: near/far/beside, high/low

Words to mimic sounds: soft/loud, flapping, banging, clanging, swishing, roaring, whirring, tweeting, etc.

Management Strategies:

Use this activity to evaluate which students follow instructions carefully. Do some seem to have trouble hearing? Can students verbalize their observations? Can students mimic the sounds of birds or other features? If students become loud during a nature hike or other outdoor learning activity, this technique may also be used to help quiet the group and refocus learning.

