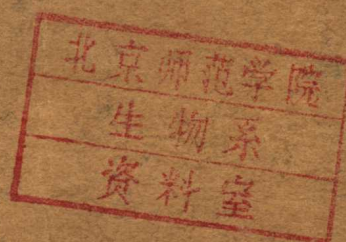


LISTENING FOCUS
Comprehension Practice for Students
of English

Ellen Kisslinger
Michael Rost



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To the Student:

One of the greatest challenges in learning a second language is going from understanding simple sentences to understanding lectures, broadcasts, and discussions.

Listening Focus is designed to help you enter this more advanced stage of language learning. To enter this stage it is important for you to have a lot of practice in listening to short lectures. Through this practice you can learn to see how individual sentences together communicate an idea.

To understand each word of every sentence is not the purpose of this kind of listening practice. The main goal is for you to gain confidence in your ability to follow ideas in lectures, presentations, and discussions.

By using this text you'll increase your ability to understand vocabulary and sentences in context; to focus your attention on key points; to summarize ideas in your own words; and to apply what you've learned in other language activities.

ORGANIZATION OF THE TEXT

Listening Focus has 21 lessons. Each lesson is based on a short (3 to 5 minute) lecture given on a tape. Students are to listen to each lecture two or three times in accordance with the activities in their workbook.

Each lesson in the student workbook contains nine sections:

- 1) Preparation
- 2) Pre-listening Vocabulary
- 3) Illustrations
- 4) Focus Questions
- 5) Detail Check Quiz (space for answers only)
- 6) Sentences for Dictation (space for writing only, with cues)
- 7) Sentence Study
- 8) Summary Exercise
- 9) Supplementary Reading

The tapes that accompany the workbook contain:

- the lecture for each lesson (recorded once)
- the Detail Check Quiz (corresponds to #5 above)
- the Sentences for Dictation (corresponds to #6 above)

The sequencing on the tapes is Lecture #1, Detail Check Quiz #1, Sentences for Dictation #1, Lecture #2, Detail Check Quiz #2, Sentences for Dictation #2, etc.

The complete text contains the entire tape scripts (lectures, Detail Check Quizzes, Sentences for Dictation), the complete student workbook, and answers to all exercises.

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WORKBOOK SECTION



T-1 AREAS

PREPARATION

This talk describes certain areas and how to find, or calculate, the area. When you listen, pay attention to what types of areas are described. Also take note of how to find these areas.

As you listen you will have to look at the illustrations below. They are called "figures": "figure 1", "figure 2", etc.

Before you listen to this talk, check the "pre-listening vocabulary" on the next page.

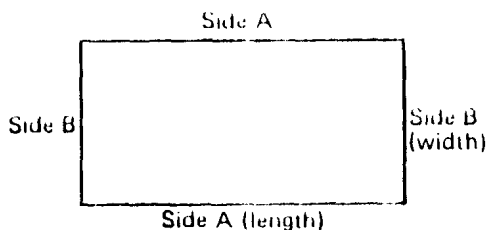


Fig. 1

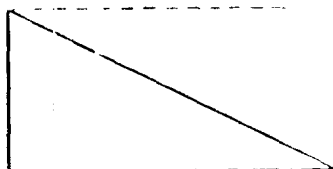


Fig. 2

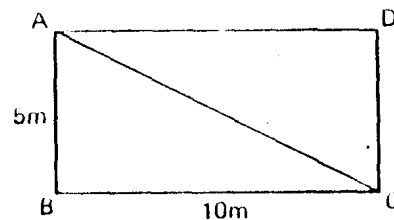


Fig. 3

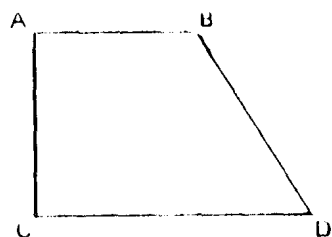


Fig. 4

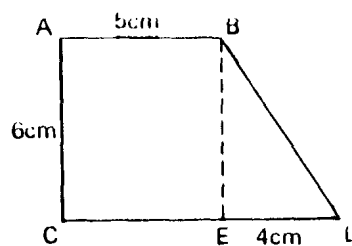


Fig. 5

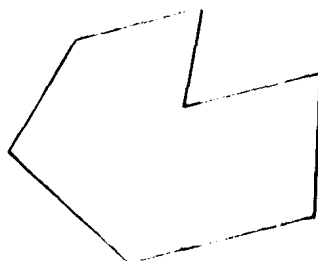


Fig. 6

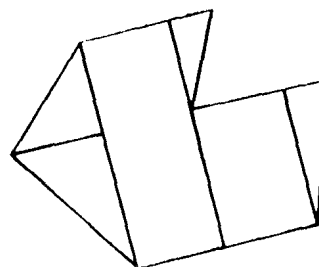


Fig. 7

PRE-LISTENING VOCABULARY

enclosed *closed or shut in on all sides*
unit *quantity or amount used as a measurement*
multiply *add up a number a given number of times*
vertical line *a line that forms a right angle with a horizontal line, a line that goes up and down*

FOCUS QUESTIONS

set a) Answer these questions after listening to the talk once.

1. What types of areas are described in this talk?
2. How do you find the area for each type?

DETAIL CHECK QUIZ. TRUE OR FALSE?

Directions: Listen to each statement on the tape. If the statement is true, circle TRUE. If the statement is false, circle FALSE. Answer all questions based on the information in the talk.

- | | | |
|----|------|-------|
| 1. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 2. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 3. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 4. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 5. | TRUE | FALSE |

SENTENCES FOR DICTATION

Listen to each sentence that the speaker says. Write exactly what the speaker says on the lines below. Some words have been provided for you.

1. enclosed
2. opposite
3. right triangle
4. difficult
5. straight lines

SENTENCE STUDY

Directions: Arrange each group of words in order to form a sentence. Use only the words that are given.

Example: (times, length, width, multiply, the, the)
Multiply the length times the width.

1. (spaces, are, have, area, all, enclosed, that, an)

2. (measured, always, units, are, in, square, areas)

3. (areas, rectangular, the, to, easiest, ones, measure, are)

4. (area, a right triangle, is, the, one-half, times, times, the width, the length, of)

5. (four-sided, figure, any, can, into, rectangles, and, triangles, be divided)

SUMMARY EXERCISE

Give a summary of the talk—orally or in writing. Be sure to include facts about:

- how to find the area of a rectangle
- how to find the area of a right triangle

SUPPLEMENTARY READING

Read the passage below. After you read it, explain the ideas in your own words.

The area of a circle is also found by multiplying two numbers. The two numbers are the square of the radius and "pi". The radius of a circle is the distance from the center of the circle to the outside of the circle. The "square" of the radius is found by multiplying the radius by itself. For example, if the radius of the circle is 5 centimeters, then the radius squared is 5 times 5 or 25.

"Pi" is a number that gives the ratio of the circumference of a circle (the distance around the circle) to the diameter of the circle (the distance from one side of the circle, across the center, to the other side of the circle). This ratio is always 3.141:1. So "pi" is about equal to 3.141.

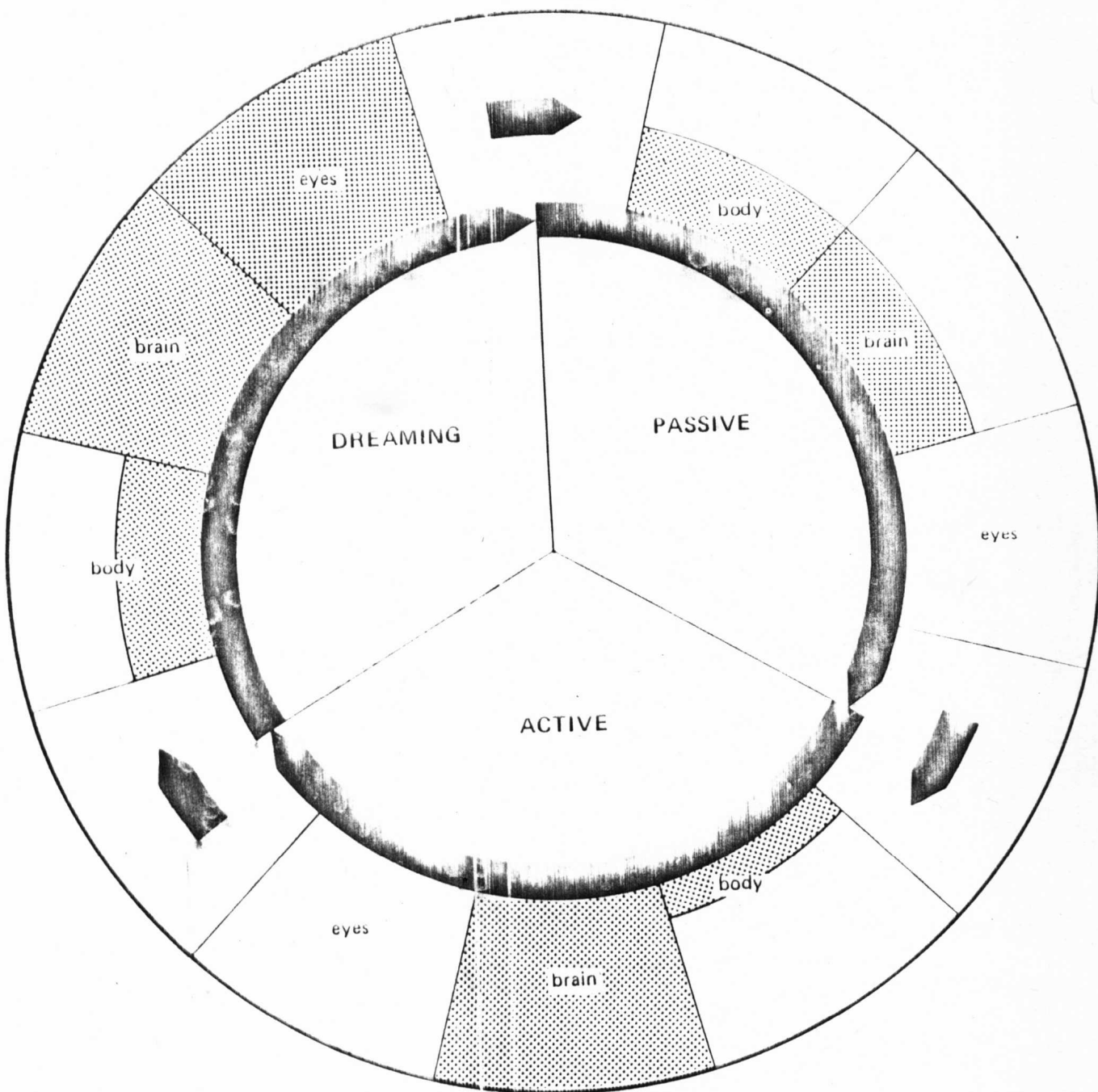
The area of a circle is "pi" times the radius squared. So if we have a circle with a radius of 5 centimeters, the area of it will be 3.141 times 25, which is equal to 78.525.

T-2 SLEEP

PREPARATION

This talk is about the sleep cycle. Listen for what happens in each part of the sleep cycle. The importance of each part of the sleep cycle will be talked about.

Look at the illustration below before you listen to the talk. Also check the "pre-listening vocabulary" on the following page before you begin.



ACTIVITY DURING SLEEP

(grey area indicates relative level of activity)

PRE-LISTENING VOCABULARY

- physical related to the body
psychological related to the brain, or to mental processes
body processes physical actions that are automatic, such as breathing or digesting food
alternate go back and forth, go from one to another
cycle a series of actions that repeats itself

FOCUS QUESTIONS

set a) Answer these questions after listening to the talk once.

1. What is the purpose of active sleep?
2. What is the purpose of passive sleep?
3. When does dreaming occur?

set b) Answer these questions after listening to the talk for the second time.

4. What happens to the heart, body processes, and body movement during passive sleep?
5. Why is passive sleep called "slow wave sleep"?
6. What happens to the brain (temperature, blood supply, level of activity) during active sleep?
7. The eyes' moving is a sign of what?
8. The speaker says, "This cycle is repeated several times." What cycle is repeated?

DETAIL CHECK QUIZ. TRUE OR FALSE?

Directions: Listen to each statement on the tape. If the statement is true, circle TRUE. If the statement is false, circle FALSE. Answer all questions based on the information in the talk.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. TRUE FALSE | 6. TRUE FALSE |
| 2. TRUE FALSE | 7. TRUE FALSE |
| 3. TRUE FALSE | 8. TRUE FALSE |
| 4. TRUE FALSE | 9. TRUE FALSE |
| 5. TRUE FALSE | 10. TRUE FALSE |

SENTENCES FOR DICTATION

Listen to each sentence that the speaker says. Write exactly what the speaker says on the lines below. Some words have been provided for you.

1. _____ *rested*
2. _____
3. _____ *healthy.*
4. _____ *brain*
5. _____ *eyes*
6. _____ *for a total*
7. _____ *hours.*
8. _____ *have found*

SENTENCE STUDY

Directions: Read the two short sentences. Then combine the sentences into one sentence. Use the word given. Be sure to put the sentences into the right order.

Example: a) We feel rested.
b) We sleep well. (Use "if")
If we sleep well, we feel rested.

1. a) We don't sleep well.
b) We feel irritable. (Use "if")

2. a) A person continues to sleep.
b) He or she enters a new stage of sleep. (Use "if")

4. a) The brain becomes active.
b) Dreaming occurs. (Use "when")

5. a) Doctors have studied the sleep cycle.
b) Doctors have found that everyone dreams. (Use "and")

3. a) This is the sign of another change.
b) The eyes begin to move. (Use "when")

SUMMARY EXERCISE

Give a summary of the talk—orally or in writing. Be sure to include facts about:

- the two kinds of sleep
- the purpose of each kind of sleep
- what the sleep cycle is

SUPPLEMENTARY READING

Read the passage below. After you read it, explain the ideas in your own words.

Many experiments have been done to see what happens to people if they aren't allowed to naturally follow the sleep cycle. In the experiments, people are usually tested to see if they can function normally if they aren't allowed to dream. They are woken as soon as they enter the active part of the sleep cycle where dreaming takes place. They are then tested to determine how this affects them.

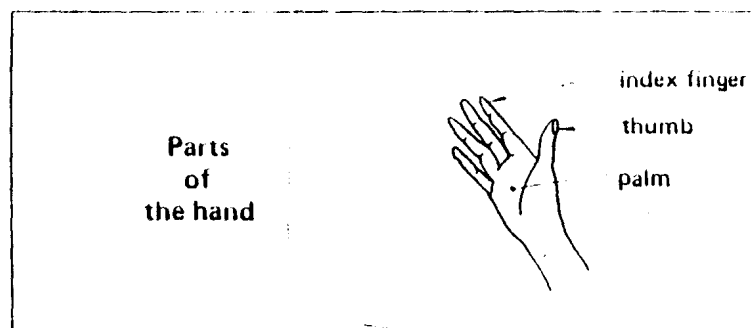
In a series of experiments, the people being tested went to sleep. As soon as their eyes began to move, a sign that dreaming has begun, they were awakened. Every time they began to dream, they were awakened. Two significant changes took place in the people. They became very nervous and irritable if they weren't allowed to dream. And, the more often they were awakened, the more often they tried to dream. In other words, the length of the passive part of the sleep cycle became shorter and shorter. The researchers came to the conclusion that dreaming was caused by some chemical process in the brain, and that the brain produced the chemical in order for dreaming to occur. The fact that people tried to dream more if they weren't allowed to dream naturally, led them to believe that we need to dream in order to be in balance.



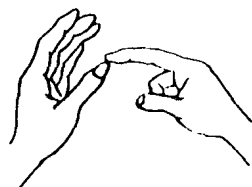
T-3 SIGN LANGUAGE

PREPARATION

Sign language is a language mainly used by people who can't hear. It is "spoken" with hand gestures. As you listen to this talk, pay attention to how sign language developed. Some examples of signs will be described in the talk.



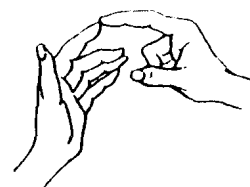
Some letters of the alphabet



A



C



E



F



G



H



J



Q



S



W

PRE-LISTENING VOCABULARY

gesture	a movement of the head or hands that has some meaning
image	a mental picture or idea
grammar	rules of a language for combining words into sentences
verb tense	a form of a verb that shows time
universal	used by everyone

FOCUS QUESTIONS

set a) Answer these questions after listening to the talk once.

1. How did Epee help to develop sign language?
2. How did Sicard help to develop sign language?
3. What is meant by a "picture-image sign"?

set b) Answer these questions after listening to the talk for the second time.

4. Describe the sign for "butter".
5. Describe the sign for "sleep".
6. How do you indicate the future tense in sign language?
7. What is the advantage of sign language?

DETAIL CHECK QUIZ. TRUE OR FALSE?

Directions: Listen to each statement on the tape. If the statement is true, circle TRUE. If the statement is false, circle FALSE. Answer all questions based on the information in the talk.

- | | | | | | |
|----|------|-------|-----|------|-------|
| 1. | TRUE | FALSE | 6. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 2. | TRUE | FALSE | 7. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 3. | TRUE | FALSE | 8. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 4. | TRUE | FALSE | 9. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 5. | TRUE | FALSE | 10. | TRUE | FALSE |