

For your weekly podcast assignments, you will be listening to academic talks, lectures, and news stories. The first podcast is about 12 minutes long. It comes from the *TED Radio Hour* podcast. The segment of the episode you want to listen to is called "[How Can we all Listen Better?](#)" LISTEN AS MANY TIMES AS YOU NEED TO in order to answer all the questions below.

USEFUL TERMS

TED Talk = an academic speech given by an expert in a particular field

cadence (n.) a regular beat or rhythm

Fall short of (v. phr.) not succeed at something

Manipulation (n.) the act of changing someone or something

Soundscape (n.) a sound or combination of sounds surrounding people

Consciously (adv.) Fully aware or sensitive to something (*conscious listening = active listening*)

Bandwidth (n.) the ability to send and receive communication information

I often think that listening is the most generous gift you can give to another human being. And many people have never had that experience. –Julian Treasure

1. ____ Julian Treasure says that we have gotten used to suppressing sound (blocking it out). What does he think is the cause of this?
 - a. There is a great deal of noise pollution around us.
 - b. People are busy looking at their phones and don't focus on listening.
 - c. People always wear headphones when using public transportation.
 - d. Our hearing is damaged.
2. The people of Lancaster, California were having a problem with crime. Julian helped them to solve the problem. **In your own words**, briefly explain what Julian did to help solve the crime problem in Lancaster.

3. According to Julian, what percentage of our communication time is spent listening? _____
4. TRUE / FALSE Julian believes that most people are very good listeners.
5. Where (in what region of the world) does Julian do most of his research? _____
6. Julian discusses some ways in which noisy environments negatively affect people. **Write down a minimum of three negative effects of noisy environments.**

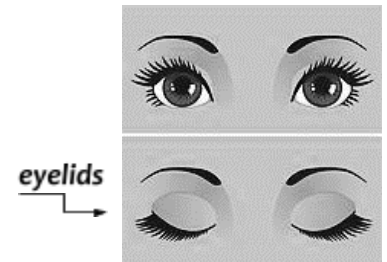
7. TRUE / FALSE Julian says that men and women listen in different ways.
8. Julian suggests some exercises that we can use to improve our conscious (active) listening abilities. Answer the questions about the exercises below.

a. How much silence should we strive for each day? _____

b. When you do the “mixer” exercise, what should you try to do?

9. TRUE / FALSE Julian believes that it is possible to consciously listen to someone while simultaneously looking at our phones.

10. **Inference Question:** Julian says, “...if you're in an office where you can overhear one person talking right next to you, they're taking up one of your 1.6 [conversations that you can understand at one time]. **We don't have any earlids.** And unless you put headphones on, that person's conversation is inevitably going to be decoded in your brain because we're programmed to decode conversation.” **What does Julian mean when he says that we do not have any earlids? How does this statement support his opinion about noisy environments?** (*Earlid is not a real word in English, but eyelid is.)



If you have questions about something you heard in the podcast, write your questions below, and Sara will help find an answer for you.