

Listening Questions for Start to Listen

DAYDREAM QUESTIONS

- Does your imagination come alive when you listen? What kinds of things come to mind?
- What kind of person might have made this piece? Can you describe this person?
- Which country might this piece come from? What makes you think that? Which elements from the clip gave you that impression?
- For which film or game might this piece have been made? What makes you think that? Which elements from the clip make you think this?
- Can you listen to this clip as if you're in a different, imaginary room? What sounds different now? Or perhaps it only *feels* different?
- You can look at the world through sunglasses or binoculars. Can you think of anything similar when it comes to listening? How does this change what you hear?
- Can you imagine what the clip would sound like echoing from the room next door?

EAR EXERCISES

- What are you looking for when you listen?
- Can you describe the different sounds in the order you heard them?
- Do you hear different sounds at once? Can you sketch them on the board?
- How would you describe the difference between hearing and listening?
- When do you stop listening?

DO!

- Can you imitate the sound file (with your voice, your body, or objects)? How would you do that?
- Can you draw the piece? How would you go about that? Would it be possible to make a drawing that a professional musician could read and use to reproduce the piece exactly?

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

- What is the difference between sound and music?
- Do you listen to music differently to how you listen to sound? What does that difference feel like?
- What do your musical ears listen for? What do your sound ears listen for?
- Can we listen to a sound with musical ears? Can we listen to music with sound ears?
- What determines the way you listen?

WHAT ABOUT SILENCE?

- Does silence sound different after listening than it did before? What is the difference?
- What kind of silence does this sound seem to grow out of?

SPACE

- Does the sound feel as if it's above, below or all around you? Can you explain or prove why you think or feel this way?
- Do you observe the sound from outside of it or are you inside it?
- How does the clip affect the sounds in the space – the sounds that aren't coming from the speakers?
- What does the sound in the clip tell us about the space in which it was recorded?
- How might the clip sound if you listened to it in the shower or in Grandma's attic?
- Can you experience listening like going on a walk? What do you see on your way?

MOVEMENT

- Is it possible to dance to the clip? If so, why? If not, why not? What kind of movements would be fitting? Can you show us?
- Do you hear movement in the sounds? Can you imitate the movements with your hands?
- If you were the sound, how would you move?

IMAGES

- Which colours or shapes does this clip bring to mind? Compare your answers with each other. Do your answers share anything in common?
- Can you feel or touch the sound in the clip? What kind of surface does the clip make you think of?
- What does the sound in the clip remind you of? Can you draw a picture of it?

MEMORY

- Have you heard the clip before? When? Where were you at the time?
- Does the clip remind you of someone? Who? Can you describe this person?
- Does listening bring any particular memories to mind? Which memories?

ONWARDS

When you get to series 3, you can try these additional challenges after answering the listening questions. Just as in series 1 and 2, you will listen to a new clip every day. Each new clip can be combined with one of these challenges. You can also add new challenges yourself, or you can repeat or combine challenges. You can use the longer clips for the more complex, practical challenges. You don't have to listen to the whole clip each time!

- How does this clip sound in the playground?
- How does this clip sound in the basement?
- How does this clip sound in nature?
- How does this clip sound in a trash can and what can you hear when you slowly open and close the lid of the trash can?
- What happens if we use a Bluetooth speaker to hide the clip in a backpack and walk around with it, at school, in the high street, in the supermarket, and so on?
- How does the clip sound when we play it as quietly as possible via the speakers? Do you also hear dialogues between the clip and sounds that aren't coming from the speakers? Do they fit together? Do they contradict each other? Do they sound similar?
- Does the clip sound different in the left ear to how it sounds in the right ear? What happens if we make a quarter turn away from the speakers?

- How can you make the clip quieter or even completely silent without touching the power button, the electronic devices or the cables? Now do the same in reverse: when you no longer hear anything, slowly start to make the clip audible again, bit by bit.
- What happens if we play the same clip on a different music device? Or if we play it on multiple speakers at the same time? What happens if you play different clips at the same time? Which clips sound good together?