

Community Connection

Explain to students that while the Gift of Listening is something they can give to friends and family members, listening is also a skill that can be used with many different people and in many different situations. Encourage students to find situations at school and around their community where they can use the Gift of Listening. As examples, students can give the Gift of Listening when they visit their school library or when they are at their local grocery store with a family member.

Family Connection

Have students identify a family member whom they can trust to give caring feedback. Then have them ask that family member if he or she would like to receive the Gift of Listening. Students ask the family member to describe the biggest surprise that ever happened to them. Then students give the Gift of Listening as their family member speaks. In so doing, students continue to develop listening skills in a situation beyond the classroom. The family member can then give feedback on how well the student followed the Gift of Listening steps. Send home the Family Connection take-home worksheet called **Listen Up and Give a Gift!**

Applying Across the Curriculum

WORLD LANGUAGES Have students practice their understanding of a world language that they are learning or with which they are familiar. Give students brief commands that call for simple actions using vocabulary that students have learned recently. Commands may include picking up a red (or blue or green) crayon or standing up (or sitting down). For more advanced world languages students, give a command that requires them to respond orally.

ART Have students create a comic strip or graphic-novel-style cartoon showing two people having a conversation using effective listening skills. Encourage students to include body language and facial expressions that show the two people listening to each other. Invite students to use any combination of words and pictures to communicate their understanding.

Show you are interested by your actions.

- Use gestures and postures that tell the speaker you are interested in what he or she is saying.
- Nodding and leaning forward are two ways body language can let the speaker know you are listening.

Model giving the Gift of Listening

Ask a volunteer to help you model giving the Gift of Listening using a role play. Have a volunteer tell you about his or her favorite pet or about a hobby, activity, or sport in which he or she likes to participate. As the student speaks, you model the Gift of Listening. Let the volunteer speak for about one minute, then begin asking questions that encourage him or her to tell you more. Show that you are interested the whole time the volunteer is speaking by using gestures and postures, including nodding and leaning toward the student. After about two minutes of role playing, ask the volunteer to describe how it felt to be listened to. Help students make the connection that demonstrating listening skills makes people feel good, so listening to someone is like giving them a gift. Check for understanding by asking the following question:

ASK: *What listening skills did I use to show that I was listening and interested in the conversation?*

3 PRACTICING 15–20 MINUTES

ACTIVITY 2

Explain the Gift of Listening activity

Tell students that now they will have the opportunity to practice giving the Gift of Listening. Each student will take turns as the listener, the speaker, and the observer. Each speaker will speak for two minutes while the listener listens and the observer watches for listening skills used by the listener.

Students practice giving the Gift of Listening

Make effective use of the trust established in the Discovering activity by having the same triads regroup. Have them decide who will be the speaker, the listener, and the observer first. Then have students select one of the following topics:

- My favorite thing to do in my free time is...
- I'll never forget the day I...

Begin the first round of practice using your Quiet Signal. After two minutes, have the observers share their observations about the listening skills used by the listeners. Repeat the activity at least two more times so that everyone has performed each role.

Reflecting

Students use their journals to reflect individually and as a class on what they learned in this lesson.

What?	What behaviors did you see today that show someone is listening?
So what?	In what ways did being listened to make you feel good? What were some things that made it hard for you to be a good listener?
Now what?	Think of some situations in which you will try the Gift of Listening. How do you imagine it will improve your friendship? Name some ways you think the Gift of Listening will benefit you as the speaker and as the listener.