

“With creativity and commitment, you can create beauty and comfort and safety, and even luxury, out of a material that will grow back.”

ELORA HARDY



AUTHENTIC LISTENING SKILLS

Listening for gist

When you listen, don't try to understand every word. Try to relax and focus on what you do understand, not what you don't understand. Notice words that the speaker repeats or stresses and the types of words that are used a lot, for example, adjectives. Try to figure out the connections between the words you understand.

- 1 Read the Authentic Listening Skills box. Listen to the extract from the TED Talk. Circle the topics Elora talks about. **▶ 1.4**

- a doors
- b windows
- c shapes
- d construction materials

- 2 What is the general idea of what she is talking about? Write a sentence.

- 5 Watch Part 1 of the talk. Choose the correct options to complete these sentences. **▶ 2.1**

- 1 _____ designed a fairy mushroom house.
 - a When Elora was a child, her mother
 - b Last year, Elora
 - c When she was a child, Elora
- 2 The curved roof helps keep the house _____.
 - a dry
 - b cool
 - c warm
- 3 It's easy to _____ a person who is using the bathroom
 - a hear
 - b see
 - c avoid

- 6 Watch Part 2 of the talk. Are the sentences *true* or *false*? **▶ 2.2**

- 1 Bamboo is a grass. _____
- 2 Bamboo grows very slowly. _____
- 3 Bamboo is light and strong. _____
- 4 Hardy plans to build a school from bamboo. _____
- 5 The Green School used sustainable materials. _____

- 7 Watch Part 3 of the talk. Choose the correct options to complete the sentences. **▶ 2.3**

- 1 Elora says it is important to *make the bamboo do what you want / design for the bamboo's strengths*.
- 2 Elora builds models of her houses to *help sell houses to her customers / test the design*.
- 3 She prefers to build doors that are *balanced / not shaped like teardrops*.
- 4 Bamboo grows back quickly, so it is *a safe / an environmentally friendly* material.

8 VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

- a Watch the clips from the TED Talk. Choose the correct meanings of the words. **▶ 2.4**

- b Answer the questions.

- 1 What is one thing that just *doesn't feel right* in your town or city?
- 2 Has someone ever had to *just tell you something*? What was it?
- 3 Who is one person who has *treated you well*?
- 4 In your city, what material *makes perfect sense* to build with?