

Understanding synonyms

- 1 ① Listen to five people talking. For each person, decide if the statement means the same as what they say. Tick or cross.

- 1 I prefer comedy films.
- 2 The film we watched last night was very good.
- 3 I was disappointed by the special effects.
- 4 The quality of the acting was poor.
- 5 Going to the cinema is more fun than watching a film at home.

- 2 Can you think of different ways of expressing the underlined words and phrases? Make notes.

- 1 a very bad phone
- 2 a very good phone
- 3 not so heavy
- 4 a large range of different colours
- 5 a cheaper version
- 6 it's ideal for me

- 3 ② Listen to someone talking about mobile phones. As you listen, write down the words and phrases they use to express the ideas 1–6 in Exercise 2.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1 | 4 |
| 2 | 5 |
| 3 | 6 |

Remember

- The speakers will not say the statements written on the page.
- However, they will say the same ideas expressed in a different way.
- A key skill is to listen for ideas and information that mean the same thing as the sentences.
- Because of this, it is essential to understand when two things mean the same thing, or something different.

Listening for gist

- 1 ③ Listen to four people talking. Match each one with a general subject.

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|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Speaker 1: | A learning a musical instrument |
| Speaker 2: | B learning a language |
| Speaker 3: | C learning how to ride a bike |
| Speaker 4: | D learning how to swim |

- 2 ④ Listen again and decide which statement best summarises what they say. Be careful! The speakers are in a different order this time.

Speaker 1

- A You need several lessons each week.
- B You have to practise a lot at home.

Speaker 2

- A Don't worry if you make mistakes.
- B Try not to make mistakes.

Speaker 3

- A It's a very important skill.
- B It's a very difficult skill.

Speaker 4

- A The most important thing is confidence.
- B Having a good teacher is essential.

Remember

- You do not need to understand every word you hear to get a general idea of what the speaker is saying.
- Do not panic if you do not know every word you hear!
- Ask yourself what the speaker's general point is, and generally what they are talking about. That is usually enough to get the right answer.