

Understanding synonyms

- 1 **001** Listen to five people talking. For each person, decide if the statement means the same as what they say. Tick or cross.
- I prefer comedy films.
 - The film we watched last night was very good.
 - I was disappointed by the special effects.
 - The quality of the acting was poor.
 - 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.
- a very bad phone
 - a very good phone
 - not so heavy
 - a large range of different colours
 - a cheaper version
 - it's ideal for me
- 3 **002** 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.
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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 **003** 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 **003** Listen again and decide which statement best summarises what they say. Be careful! The speakers are in a different order this time.
- Speaker 1**
- You need several lessons each week.
 - You have to practise a lot at home.
- Speaker 2**
- Don't worry if you make mistakes.
 - Try not to make mistakes.
- Speaker 3**
- It's a very important skill.
 - It's a very difficult skill.
- Speaker 4**
- The most important thing is confidence.
 - 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.