Listening: B1
An interview about listening skills

Listen to the English teacher talk about listening to practise and improve your listening skills.

Before listening

Do the preparation task first. Then listen to the audio and do the exercises.

Preparation task
Match the vocabulary (1–8) with the definitions (a–h).

Vocabulary

1. ...... high stakes
2. ...... to break something down
3. ...... a strategy
4. ...... to pretend
5. ...... sweat
6. ...... to confess
7. ...... to summarise
8. ...... paperwork

Definitions

a. to admit
b. an action to achieve a result
c. to behave as if something is true
d. a situation where the result is very important
e. the water that comes from your skin when you're very hot
f. to give the main points
g. forms and documents
h. to make something into smaller parts

Tasks

Task 1
Are the sentences true or false?

		Answer	
1.	The interviewer finds speaking the most difficult.	True	False
2.	Gabriella thinks, in some situations, people can find speaking easier than listening.	True	False
3.	According to the interviewer, asking for someone to say the same thing again is one way to solve the problem.	True	False
4.	Gabriella recommends pretending to understand if a conversation is too difficult.	True	False
5.	Gabriella's strategy for managing important conversations sounds strange to the interviewer at first.	True	False
6.	Gabriella's idea involves asking a lot of questions.	True	False

Task 2

Match the expressions (1–6) with the meanings (a–f).

Expressions

1. ...... I came out in a cold sweat.
2. ...... I'm still lost.
3. ...... I can take it.
4. ...... My brain shuts down.
5. ...... I get you!
6. ...... I wanted to get out of it.

Meanings

a. I can't think.
b. I won't be upset.
c. I wanted to escape.
d. I was really nervous or afraid.
e. I still don't understand.
f. I understand what you're saying!

Discussion

What do you do to help with listening?