

UNIT 9: LISTENING DICTATION

Tutor: So, Fahad, let's talk about your presentation. Um, you've done a rough [redacted], so, er, let's go over it and then you can go away and write all up.

Fahad: Sure

T: I asked you to choose a topic related to [redacted], and you've chosen desalination – removing [redacted] from sea water. Now, why did you choose that?

F: Well, I come from the United Arab Emirates, and we have the world's largest desalination [redacted]

T: Right, that's very relevant, and I think you should include that – you know, your personal, er, reasons – at the start.

F: Say why I decided on this topic?

T: Yes – just five a sentence or two, that'll do.

F: OK – I mean, I thought I should keep the introduction [redacted]

T: Yes, but you can say why you like the topic ... it's a good choice of topic – very interesting – and then I can follow the introduction easily.

F: OK

T: Now, let's go on to the [redacted] background.

F: Mm, I want to make it clear that [redacted] purification isn't a new idea.

T: No – indeed, that's a good point to make.

F: So I'm going to describe some of the 'older' methods from the past.

T: Mmm. I got a bit lost reading your notes here.

F: Ah-ha. Is it too long?

T: Well, I think the real problem is that the information isn't in a [redacted] order.

F: I see ... well, it is just notes.

T: Well, you start in the 18th century, then move to the present day, then go back to the 20th century.

F: So it needs [REDACTED]

T: Yes, that would help.

F: OK – I'll make it clearer. What about the description of the process?

T: Ah, yes, that looks pretty good to me, but we'll go over it in [REDACTED] in a moment.

F: OK. I may need to cut it down.

T: Yes, definitely – it goes on for a long time and gets a bit technical.

F: Sure, er ... OK. After the process, I want to talk about the pros and cons of desalination, because that seems to be the big debate.

T: I totally agree. But you need to sort this section out.

F: Yes, it is a bit confusing.

T: I think you should present the main points one at a time.

F: OK – what, er, the advantages and disadvantages?

T: Yes, and talk about each one [REDACTED]

F: OK – rather than presenting them all together?

T: Mnn – it's hard for your listeners to take in like that. It's all a bit unclear at the moment.

F: I see.

T: So, lastly, you conclude that we need to look for [REDACTED] ways to remove salt from sea water.

F: Well, yes. Do you think that's the wrong conclusion?

T: No, no – not at all. However, you should tell your audience exactly why you think this.

F: I will in the previous section.

T: Mmm, but you need to [REDACTED] the reasons again in the final part of your presentation.

F: Oh, I see. Right ... I'll mention them briefly, then.

T: Just a list will do. That'll make a conclusion a better length as well.

F: OK – thanks very much, Dr. Tyler.

Tutor: OK, so let's have a closer look at the section on the process of

Fahad: Well, I just need to outline the of the process, don't I?

T: Uh-huh. Yes, yes. You need to explain first what desalination means.

F: Well, I want to start by referring to a form of desalination ...

Um, and to say that a filters salt out of the sea water in its throat.

T: OK, that's interesting ... so they just spit the salt out, do they?

F: Yes.

T: Right, that's a good introduction. Then you can go on to describe the mechanical process.

Yes – well, the first stage is the collection ... um ... it involves a large that collects the water – actually, it goes through a canal and that passes the water into the plant, which treats it, you know ...

T: Removes all the rubbish.

F: Yes.

T: So the treatment's the second stage. What happens next?

F: Well, the next stage is that it goes through a lot of pipes until it reaches the point where the salt is removed.

T: OK – so that's the next point on your chart ...

F: Yes – I can talk about this quite a lot ... the salt's separated from

T: Right ... the water passes through a membrane ...

F: Mmm – not exactly. That's the whole thing. The sea water has to be forced ... er, pumped ... and a lot of [REDACTED] is involved.

T: Mmm – you need to make that point – explain that the water doesn't go freely.

F: No, because the salt is heavy. This is the really [REDACTED] part of the process.

T: OK ... so after that, what happens?

F: Well, there's some more treatment after the high-pressure filtering process, but eventually the system produces fresh water.

T: OK – it might be good to mention what's left over.

F: Salt, and that's a really big problem ...

T: Where does it go?

F: After the desalination process, the [REDACTED] that remains – it's called brine – it's a very salty substance and it goes back – usually into the sea.

T: Mmm

F: It's not good for [REDACTED], though ... it damages [REDACTED]

T: Well – you can discuss that in the next section of your presentation.

F: Yup. So anyway ... a lot of the fresh water that's produced is used for human consumption.

T: Uh-huh, yes, and ...

F: It's also used for irrigation ... for watering farmland.

T: Great! Well, you've mentioned some of the disadvantages ...