Understanding synonyms

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

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 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.

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