**Listening strategies**

<https://www.learning-english-online.net/listening-comprehension/listening-strategies/>

Listening is the one skill that you use the most in everyday life. Listening comprehension is the basis for your speaking, writing and reading skills. To train your listening skills, it is important to listen actively, which means to actively pay attention to what you are listening to. Make it a habit to listen to audio books, podcasts, news, songs, etc. and to watch videos and films in the foreign language.

You should know that there are different types of listening:

* **Listening for gist**: you listen in order to understand the main idea of the text.
* **Listening for specific information**: you want to find out specific details, for example key words.
* **Listening for detailed understanding**: you want to understand all the information the text provides.

Before you listen to a text, you should be aware of these different types. You will have to decide what your purpose is. Becoming aware of this fact will help you to both focus on the important points and reach your goal.

**Before you listen**

* Think about the topic of the text you are going to listen to. What do you already know about it? What could possibly be the content of the text? Which words come to mind that you already know? Which words would you want to look up?
* If you have to do a task on the listening text, check whether you have understood the task correctly.
* Think about what type of text you are going to listen to. What do you know about this type of text?
* Relax and make yourself ready to pay attention to the listening text.

**While you are listening**

* It is not necessary to understand every single word. Try to ignore those words that you think are less important anyway.
* If there are words or issues that you don't understand, use your general knowledge as well as the context to find out the meaning.
* If you still don't understand something, use a dictionary to look up the words or ask someone else for help.
* Focus on key words and facts.
* Take notes to support your memory.
* Intonation and stress of the speakers can help you to understand what you hear.
* Try to think ahead. What might happen next? What might the speakers say, which words might they use?

**After listening**

* Think about the text again. Have you understood the main points?
* Remember the speculations you made before you listened. Did they come true?
* Review your notes.
* Check whether you have completed your task correctly.
* Have you had any problems while listening? Do you have any problems now to complete your task? Identify your problems and ask someone for help.
* Listen again to difficult passages.

<https://www.radio.cz/en/section/curraffrs/archaeologists-unearth-seven-graves-dating-back-to-great-moravian-empire>

1. **What is the listening about?**
2. **What is the main idea?**
3. **Where is it situated?**
4. **What is surprising about it?**
5. **Which historical realm did that area belong to?**
6. **Which current states used to be its parts?**
7. **Were the remains unearthed mostly of the farmers who lived there?**
8. **Were there any clergymen remains found?**
9. **How many graves have been discovered there so far?**

Reading strategies

Reading for gist

[Gist](http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/knowledge-database/gist) is the overall meaning, the core idea, of a spoken or written discourse. When taking a quick look at a written text to establish its genre and the main message its writer means to get across, we're reading for gist. This is also known as skimming.

A text can provide readers with lots of clues that help readers quickly establish what it's about. These needn't be just the words. A quick glance at the arrangement – densely written columns, for example – can tell us we're looking at a newspaper article, even when it's been reproduced in an exam paper. We also look for visuals or any other discrete [discourse](http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/knowledge-database/discourse) features to help us make informed predictions.

As we begin skimming a text, we focus on the [content words](http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/knowledge-database/content-words) – the nouns, verbs and adjectives – rather the grammatical words (it, the, on, etc.,) that provide structure rather than meaning. For example:

The cafe is open until late on Fridays.

Reading for gist is all about getting the ideas of the text by skimming it rapidly and ignoring the grammatical words.

Another reading skill often mentioned alongside skimming is [scanning](http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/knowledge-database/scanning). Scanning is our quest for more specific information, such as numbers, names or other easily identifiable data within a text. We do this when, [for example](https://scottthornbury.wordpress.com/tag/reading-for-gist/), we consult a bus timetable for a specific time or destination.

**Czech Army sets up special unmanned systems battalion, combat and reconnaissance drones to follow soon**

[*Tom McEnchroe*](https://www.radio.cz/en/who-is-who/tom-mcenchroe)

*17-01-2020*

The Czech army launched its new 533 Unmanned Systems Battalion on Thursday. Currently the country’s armed forces operate a number of small drones, but according to Chief of the General Staff Aleš Opata, the army will soon buy at least one larger, heavier unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), capable of both reconnaissance and combat.

It may be primarily known for its historic centre and local fashion brand, but the Moravian town of Prostějov is also closely tied with the Czech Army, housing its crack 601 Special Forces Group.

Since January 1, 2020, there is a new addition the local military base. The 533 Unmanned Systems Battalion is a freshly formed unit tasked with operating drones.

All of the army’s pilotless systems will be integrated into this newly formed battalion, says Chief of the General Staff Aleš Opata.

Currently the army has publicly disclosed it has several small unmanned aerial vehicles under the weight of 22 kilograms at its disposal. They include the American made RQ-11B Raven and the ScanEagle, both are used for reconnaissance. General Opata says that within a space of two years the army will begin the purchasing process for a heavier drone weighing up to 1,200 kilograms.

According to Czech Television, the new drone will also carry systems capable of electronic warfare.

With the project still in the preparation phase, the chief of the general staff is unwilling to disclose whether only one such UAV will be bought, or whether there will be more.

The new battalion will eventually reach the size of 300 service members and the unit will analyse data secured through the unmanned systems.

While the unit is expected to reach basic operational capability by October, it will only become fully operational by January 2025.

* 1. **What is the text about?**
  2. **What is its main idea?**
  3. **Where and when will it be located?**
  4. **Why is this information significant?**
  5. **Why cannot any detail information be given to the public?**
  6. **When will its capacity be completed?**

**1. What is the text about?**

**2. What is the main idea of the text?**

**3. Which country is it in?**

**4. Which part of the country is it in?**

**5. What are the alleged reasons of the crisis?**

**6. What are the real reasons of the crisis?**

**7. What is the approach of the authorities?**

**8. What is the present strategy used to solve the crisis?**

**9. Does the crisis have any solution?**

**10. Is the solution viable? Why?**

**11. What is the percentage of drug addicts in Seattle?**

**12. What was the LA´s cost of the unsheltered last year?**

# An addiction crisis disguised as a housing crisis on the West Coast

*Updated: June 20, 2019 - 9:00 AM*

*Christopher Rufo, For the Inquirer*

Philadelphia is in the midst of an opioid addiction crisis and political leaders have embarked on a policy of “harm reduction,” including supervised injection sites. But if we want to see the results of these permissive policies, we can simply look at the addiction and homelessness crisis in the West Coast states of California, Oregon, and Washington, where by latest count, some 109,089 men and women are sleeping on the streets.

The homelessness crisis in these states has generated headlines and speculation about “root causes.” Progressive political activists allege that tech companies have inflated housing costs and forced middle-class people onto the streets. Declaring that “no two people living on Skid Row . . . ended up there for the same reasons,” Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, for his part, blames a housing shortage, stagnant wages, cuts to mental health services, domestic and sexual abuse, shortcomings in criminal justice, and a lack of resources for veterans. These factors may all have played a role, but the most pervasive cause of West Coast homelessness is clear: heroin, fentanyl, and synthetic opioids.

In these states, homelessness is an addiction crisis disguised as a housing crisis. In Seattle, prosecutors and law enforcement recently estimated that the majority of the region’s homeless population is hooked on opioids, including heroin and fentanyl. If this figure holds constant throughout the West Coast, then at least 11,000 homeless people addicted to opioids live in Washington, 7,000 live in Oregon, and 65,000 live in California (concentrated mostly in San Francisco and Los Angeles). For the unsheltered population inhabiting tents, cars, and RVs, the opioid-addiction percentages are even higher — the City of Seattle’s homeless-outreach team estimates that 80 percent of the unsheltered population has a substance-abuse disorder. Officers must clean up used needles in almost all the homeless encampments.

In Seattle, police busted two sophisticated criminal rings engaged in “predatory drug dealing” in homeless encampments (they were found in possession of $20,000 in cash, heroin, firearms, knives, machetes, and a sword). Police believe that “apartments were serving as a base of operations that supplied drugs to the streets, and facilitated the collection and resale of stolen property.” In other words, drug dealers were exploiting homeless people in addiction and using the city’s maze of illegal encampments as distribution centers. Dealers have become brazen — one recently hung up a spray-painted sign on the side of his RV with the message: “Buy Drugs Here!”

What are local governments doing to address this problem? To a large extent, they have adopted a strategy of deflection, obfuscation, and denial. In her [#SeattleForAll](https://www.city-journal.org/seattleforall-campaign) public relations campaign, Mayor Jenny Durkan insists that only one in three homeless people struggle with substance abuse, understating the figures of her own police department as well as the city attorney, who has said that the real numbers, just for opioid addiction, rise to 80 percent of the unsheltered.

The consequences of such denial have proved disastrous: No city on the West Coast has a solution for homelessness and opioid addiction. Los Angeles, which spent $619 million on homelessness last year, has adopted a strategy of palliative care — keeping people in addiction alive through distribution of the overdose drug naloxone — but fails to provide access to on-demand detox, rehabilitation, and recovery programs that might help people overcome their addictions. The city has been cursed, in this sense, with temperate weather, compounded by permissive policies toward public camping and drug consumption that have attracted 20,687 homeless individuals from outside Los Angeles County.

No matter how much local governments pour into affordable-housing projects, homeless people in addiction — nearly all unemployed — will never be able to afford the rent in expensive West Coast cities. The first step in solving these intractable issues is to address the real problem: Addiction is the common denominator for most of the homeless and must be confronted honestly if we have any hope of solving it.