

Unit 1 Language

Applied linguistics: Early language acquisition

Listening skills: Identifying main ideas in a presentation

Speaking skills: Giving an introduction to a presentation

1 SPEAKING

- a** What do you think are the main differences between acquiring a first language and learning a second language?
- b** Discuss the questions.
- How important are gestures in your culture?
 - What are some typical gestures?
 - Do you know any gestures from another culture?



2 LISTENING 1

- a** Match a word in A to a word in B to make a phrase. Then match the phrases to definitions i–v.

A	B
1 <input type="checkbox"/> conduct	a language
2 <input type="checkbox"/> deaf	b gesture
3 <input type="checkbox"/> sign	c research
4 <input type="checkbox"/> hand	d expression
5 <input type="checkbox"/> facial	e community

- a group of people in society who cannot hear
- when you use your face to show how you feel, for example, a smile shows you're happy
- when you do a detailed study to discover new information
- using your hands and face to communicate
- moving your hands to communicate an idea or feeling

- b** The phrases in the box are used in the first part of the introduction to a presentation. What do you think it could be about?

child development expert deaf couple first language
carry out research hearing families sign language
communicate using gestures

- c** **1.1** Listen and check your answers.



- d** Read the notes about Joseph Garcia. Can you remember the correct order?

- ☐ looked for research on using sign language in families that can hear
- ☐ published a book on sign language for all parents
- ☐ learned sign language from deaf people
- ☐ did research with families that can hear
- ☐ noticed deaf babies learn to use sign language quickly
- ☐ concluded that babies can communicate with sign language at eight months

- e** **1.1** Listen again and check the correct order.

3 PRONUNCIATION Stress and pausing

- a** These are the final two sentences of the introduction. Which words are stressed? Where does the speaker pause?

Since then, it's generally been understood that using sign language helps a child's first language development. However, more recently research has suggested that this may not be the case at all.

- b** **1.2** Listen and check your ideas.

- c** Why did the speaker use lots of stresses and pauses? Tick the correct reasons below.



- ☐ There are a lot of nouns, verbs and adverbs in these sentences.
- ☐ The speaker isn't sure what to say.
- ☐ The speaker is signalling this is the final part of the introduction.
- ☐ The speaker is getting tired and needs to pause a lot.
- ☐ The speaker is making a main point and wants it to be clear.

STUDY SKILLS: RECOGNISING MAIN POINTS

Think about the reasons in 3c.



- How can they help you when listening to lectures and presentations?
- How can they help you when giving presentations?

4 LISTENING 2



- a**  **1.3** Listen to the second part of the introduction. What does the speaker do? Choose the best answer.
- 1 She briefly talks about recent research in child sign language.
 - 2 She describes the content of her presentation.
 - 3 She talks about examples of babies who learned sign language.
- b**  **1.3** Listen again and complete the notes with three words. The speaker will ...
- 1 give a definition of _____
 - 2 talk about research done _____
 - 3 mention _____ and culture where gestures are used
 - 4 try to understand if _____ with babies is useful

5 LANGUAGE FOCUS

Presentation introductions

- a** Sentences 1–4 are from the second part of the introduction. The lecturer uses different language for the underlined parts of each sentence. Can you remember what she says?
- 1 So, I want to say what I mean by child sign language because it's a bit different from the kind of sign language that deaf people use.
 - 2 Then I want to speak about a research study that was done just a few years ago in the UK and look at the results of that.
 - 3 And finally, I want to speak about a particular country and culture where using gestures when you speak happens all the time.
 - 4 I want to understand if using sign language with babies is useful and then I'd like to find out what you think about this topic.
- b**  **1.4** Listen and check. Write the correct version.
- c** Answer the questions.
- 1 Which expression has a different purpose from the other three? Why?
 - 2 What is the time reference of the other three expressions – present or future?
- d** The notes below are from the introduction to a presentation about children's second language learning. Use the notes and the words in (brackets) to write sentences. More than one answer is possible.
- 1 explaining different examples of second language learning for children (begin)
 - 2 a good age for children to start learning a second language (talk about)
 - 3 the most beneficial way for children to learn (also / refer to)
 - 4 it's useful for children to learn a second language (main objective / show)
- e**  Compare your answers in 5d with your partner.

6 LISTENING 3



- a**  **1.5** In the second part of her introduction, the speaker says she will talk about the three points in the presentation. Listen to three extracts and match them to points 1–3.
- 1 a definition of baby sign language
 - 2 a research study in the UK
 - 3 a country where gesture is used
- b**  **1.5** Are these sentences true or false? Listen again and check.
- 1 Because Italians use gestures, their children learn to speak quickly.
 - 2 Very simple sign language is easy for anyone to understand.
 - 3 Using sign language doesn't improve your baby's language development, but it doesn't hurt it.

c CRITICAL THINKING GENERALISING IDEAS

What things do you think can help a child's language development? Why? Think about:

- parents
- reading
- other children
- family

7 SPEAKING

- a** You are going to introduce a presentation on learning English. In your introduction mention three of the following topics:
- a good time to start learning
 - what language skills to focus on
 - helpful ways to study alone
 - a useful way to learn
 - good materials to use
 - opportunities to practise speaking
-  Work in pairs and plan an introduction to the presentation. What three topics will you talk about? What is the objective of your presentation?
- b**  Work with a new partner. Give your presentation introductions to each other. Use the expressions from the Language focus. What differences are there in the topics and objectives that you talk about?

