

Receptive skills

Some basic rules for receptive skills whether it is watching a recording, observing another person, or using any other media.

- Don't panic
- Relax
- If you miss a sign – carry on watching/observing

If you are making notes then –

- Take basic notes as you watch like odd words of the vocabulary
- Don't make notes in English format
- Make notes in BSL format at all times even it is does not make sense in English!
- Best to make a list of single words only and down the page, not across the page e.g.

Man
Car
Fast
Traffic
Airport

You will then recall what the narrative was about afterwards.

When watching a video clip or other formats, watch the whole thing first. DO NOT stop and rewind as this may cause a mental block.

If you see a sign you do not know do not focus on that sign, move on otherwise you may have a mental block for the rest of the recording.

As you watch your understanding of the narrative will begin to fall in place.

Afterwards check your notes, you may then realise what the missing sign was.

Any fingerspelling that you do not capture, don't panic. The word may fit into the context of the sentence.

Do not look at the narrative in a narrow way but rather look at the whole scene. Relax and allow the picture of the narrative reveal itself to you.

One trick is to make notes without looking at the paper but feel your way down the sheet. You do not want to miss watching the video in case any information goes by too quickly.

Exercise:

Watch a video and make notes.

When the video finishes then discuss with the others in your group what information you have or think you have. Compare to see how well you all did.

Then watch the video again and see if there was anything different from watching first time.

A shared task in this manner will enable you to develop your receptive skills quite dramatically.