Academic Listening Strategies

Listening to a lecture can be hard work! All professors are different, they may speak too quickly, or blend words together. Try out these listening strategies next class, they may help!

Broader -> Detailed

Before Class

- Review materials for next class
- Predict the topic of next class
- Think about what you already know
- How might old information relate to the next lecture?

During Class

- Identify the organizational pattern (is it problem/solution, literature review, theory, etc?)

- Listen for phrases that introduce, summarize, or change topics

After Class

- Keep engaging with the content by reviewing your notes for any incomplete information

- Go to a classmate or office hours with questions or anything you may have missed

Detailed -> Broader

Focus on stressed words

- Listen for longer words (usually nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs). These words are the most important informationally.

Pay attention to repetition and pausing

- Repeated phrases may be key points

Keep going!

- Avoid trying to understand every single word. Not all words are important.