

Active/Reflective Listening Introduction – Part A

Form a circle, sit cross-legged on the floor. Give each person a penny or a piece of candy. I'm going to read a story, and every time you hear any word that sounds like right or left, then pass the penny to the person on your right or left. Start reading slowly, then speed up. After a few passes stop the story and ask how they are doing? Make sure everyone has a penny and keep going.

The Wright Family Story

One day the Wright family decided to take a vacation. The first thing they had to decide was who would be left home since there was not enough room in the Wright family car for all of them. Mr. Wright decided that Aunt Linda Wright would be the one left at home. Of course, this made Aunt Linda Wright so mad that she left the house immediately yelling, "It will be a right cold day before I return."

The Wright family now bundled up the children, Tommy Wright, Susan Wright, Timmy Wright and Shelly Wright and got in the car and left. Unfortunately, as they turned out of the driveway someone had left a trashcan in the street so they had to turn right around and stop the car. They told Timmy Wright to get out of the car and move the trash can so they could get going. Timmy took so long that they almost left him in the street. Once the Wright family got on the road, Mother Wright wondered if she had left the stove on. As they turned right at the corner, everyone started to think about other things that they might have left undone.

No need to worry now, they were off on a right fine vacation. When they arrived at the gas station, Father Wright put gas in the car and then discovered that he had left his wallet at home. So Timmy Wright ran home to get the money that was left behind. After Timmy had left, Susan Wright started to feel sick. She left the car saying that she had to throw up. This of course got Mrs. Wright's attention and she left the car in a hurry. Shelly Wright wanted to watch Susan get sick, so she left the car too. Father Wright was left with Tommy Wright who was playing a game in the backseat.

With all of this going on Father Wright decided that this was not the right time to take a vacation, so he gathered up all of the family and left the gas station as quickly as he could. When he arrived home, he turned left into the driveway and said, "I wish the Wright family had never left the house today!"

Listening is important. Was it hard to listen and pass the objects at the same time? It is difficult when you are not concentrating on what is being said because you're busy doing something else. Did you get frustrated when you or others couldn't keep up with the story? How much of the story can you remember?