

**PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

Listen Up!



**YOUR ORACY OCTOBER
2024 CHALLENGE PACK**



Welcome to your Oracy October 2024 resource pack. This year's theme is 'listening'. The challenges in this pack will help you explore and develop the skills you need to become a great listener in a range of different situations.

In this pack you will find four challenges that will help you evaluate, reflect upon and improve your listening skills. In each challenge you'll need to use some different skills from the Listening Wheel (you don't need to use every skill in every situation). You can choose to complete one task a day over a week, or one task per week across Oracy October.

What is oracy?

Oracy is all about how we talk and listen to others. The Oracy Framework can help you figure out which speaking and listening skills you need in different situations. It breaks these skills down into four strands: physical, linguistic, cognitive, and social-emotional.



Physical: this is about your gestures and body language, as well as the 'physical' aspects of your voice such as how loudly or quickly you speak or how you change your tone of voice to show different emotions.



Linguistic: this strand relates to the words and phrases you choose to use and how you bring these together through speech.



Cognitive: this is all about how you organise your thoughts, explain your ideas clearly and ask questions to understand better.



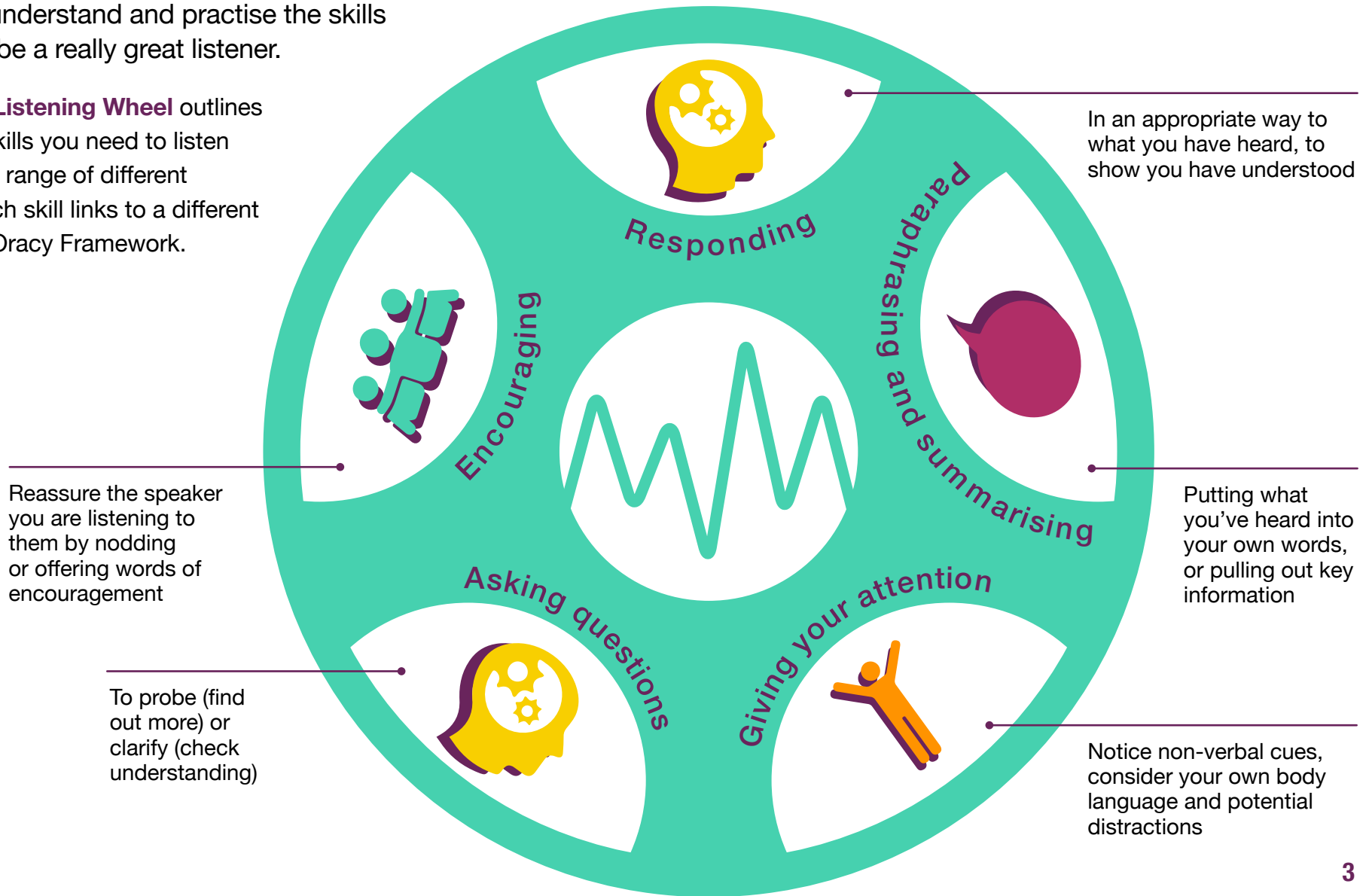
Social & Emotional: this strand is about how you connect with others, take turns speaking and make sure everyone feels listened to and understood.

How can I be an effective listener?



The four strands of the Oracy Framework also help you to understand and practise the skills you need to be a really great listener.

The Voice 21 **Listening Wheel** outlines the different skills you need to listen effectively in a range of different situations. Each skill links to a different strand of the Oracy Framework.



Reassure the speaker you are listening to them by nodding or offering words of encouragement

To probe (find out more) or clarify (check understanding)

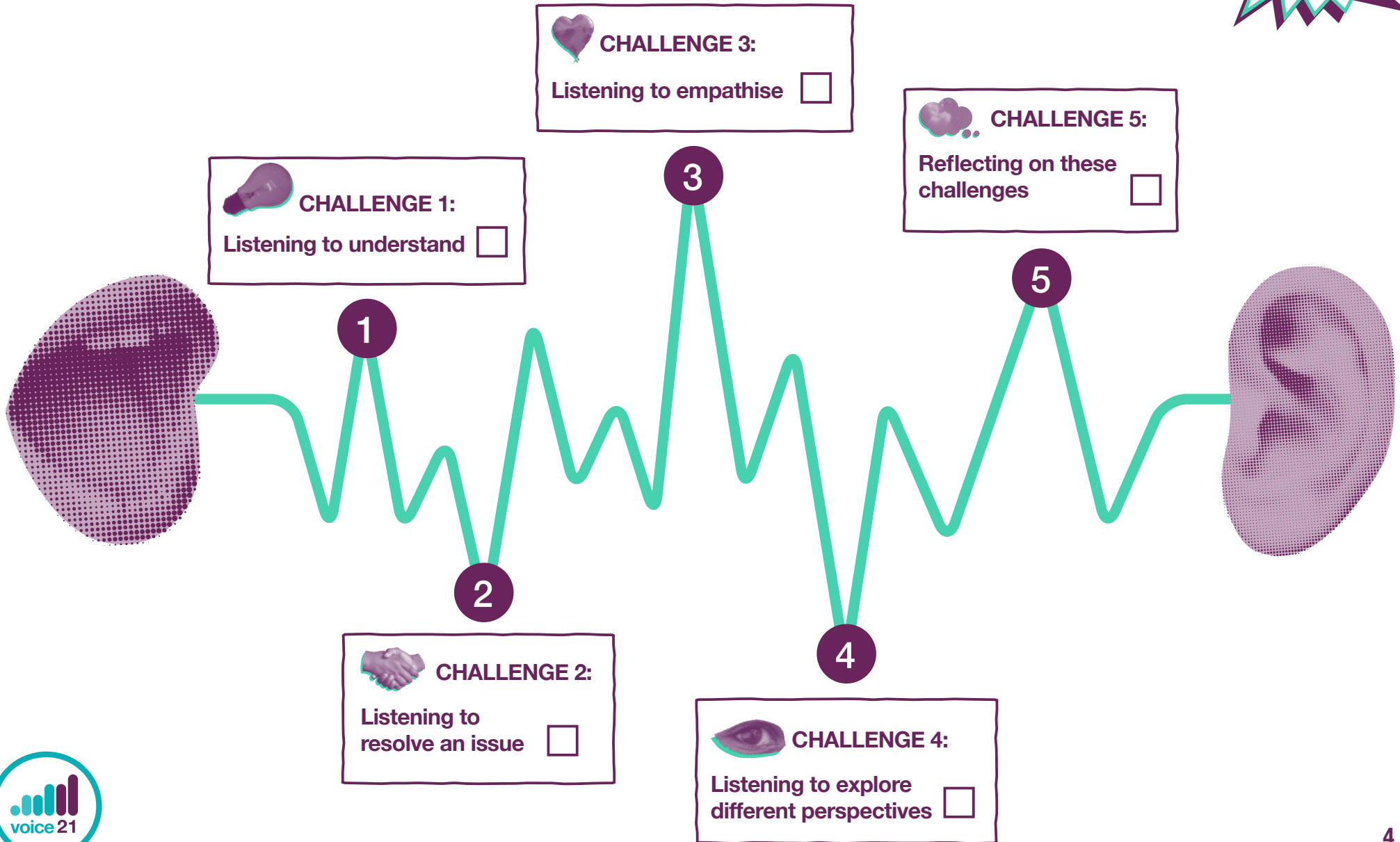
In an appropriate way to what you have heard, to show you have understood

Putting what you've heard into your own words, or pulling out key information

Notice non-verbal cues, consider your own body language and potential distractions



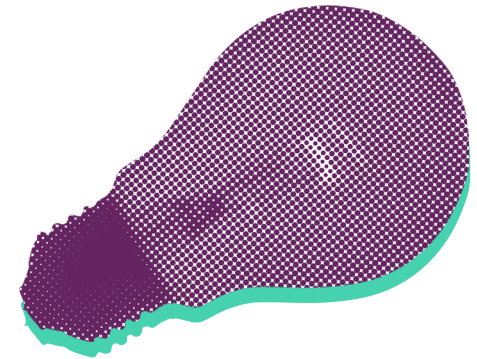
Progression Tracker



Challenge 1

Listening to understand

There will be times in all our lives when you are not quite sure what someone is trying to tell you. You can ask questions to help you understand better.



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Challenge



Sit back-to-back with a friend. Ask your friend to draw a picture of a house, but don't look at their drawing! As they describe

the house to you, try to draw the same house on your paper.

While your friend is describing the house, ask questions to help you picture and draw it more accurately. When you've finished, compare your pictures to see how similar they are.

Because you're not facing your friend, you'll have to work hard to make sure you are giving them your full attention. You'll also need to think carefully about which questions you're asking your friend – clarifying questions such as 'is the door in the middle of the house? Or how many windows are there?' can give you vital clues about your friend's picture.

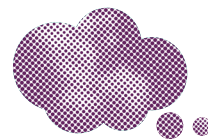


You could say...

"Where would you like me to add _____?"

"Does it have a _____?"

"Do you mean that _____?"



Reflection

How did being back-to-back with your friend affect your listening and attention?

How might your picture look different if you didn't ask any clarifying questions?

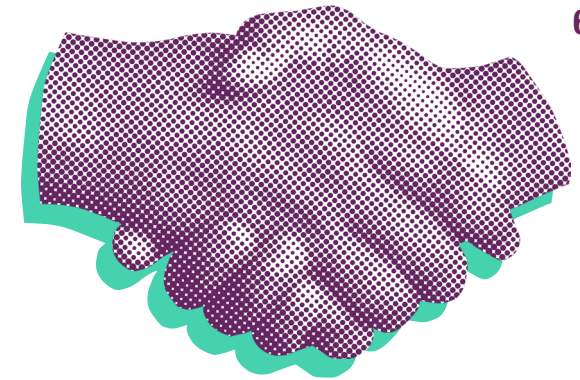


Challenge 2

Listening to resolve an issue

People may have very different ideas and opinions on certain matters and this can sometimes lead to conflict.

When trying to resolve an issue, listening is important to help understand each person's perspective and find a resolution.



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Challenge



Watch [the video clip](#) of these school children having a disagreement about whose turn it is to stand at the front of the line in the playground.

Imagine you are a peer mediator whose job it is to help other children talk through their problems and find a solution so everyone can get along. Use your own words to explain why each child is feeling upset and then suggest how they might be able to get along better.

To complete this challenge you'll need to use the skills of paraphrasing and responding. After you've listened to the clip and explained in your own words why each child is upset (paraphrasing), tell a friend or an adult how they could solve the problem (responding).

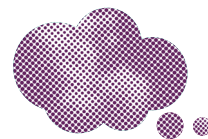
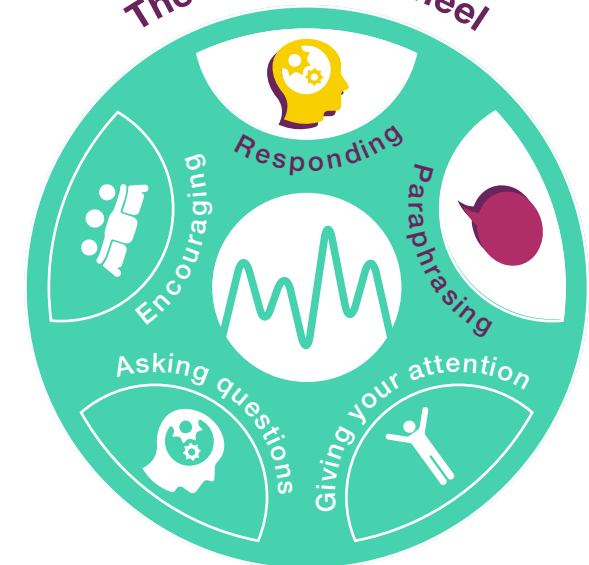


You could say...

"The first / second child is upset because...."

"They could resolve the problem by..."

The Listening Wheel



Reflection

How might the listening skills you've practised today be useful in other situations?

How do you think effective listening helps to resolve conflicts?

Challenge 3

Listening to empathise

Empathy means understanding how someone else feels and sharing their feelings. It helps you build relationships and show others that you care about them. Listening carefully is really important for empathy because it helps you understand what the other person is feeling and thinking.

Challenge



Ask a friend or adult to tell you about something that is important to them. It could be a special friend, a sentimental item or an important place.

Ask them to explain why it is important to them. As you listen, try to show that you understand or can imagine how they feel about it.

For example, you can show you understand and encourage them by nodding, making the right facial expressions, or using words like “yeah,” or “go on.” You don’t always need to say a lot to show you care. You could also try summarising what they’ve said to show you’ve really understood what they’re saying.

Pay close attention to the speaker’s body language as this will give you some clues about how they are feeling – for example, they might cross their arms if they’re annoyed or smile and lean forward if they’re happy or excited.

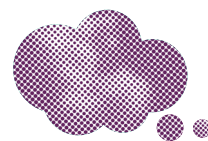
When you’ve finished your conversation, ask the speaker whether they felt listened to. If so, what did you do to make them feel heard?



You could say...

“Can you tell me a little bit more about...?”

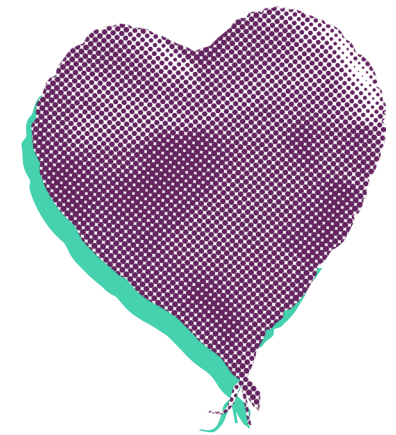
“It sounds like that was...”



Reflection

Could you tell that the person you listened to felt understood? How?

How would you feel if you were listened to in this way?



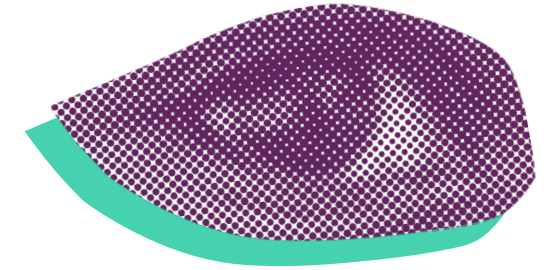
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Challenge 4

Listening to explore different perspectives

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In life, you will engage with lots of different people, with lots of different opinions. Not everyone will think the same as you.

Whilst you might not always agree with someone (and you don't have to!), listening to others is important to understand someone else's perspective. Sometimes, this might help you to change your opinions or even learn something new.

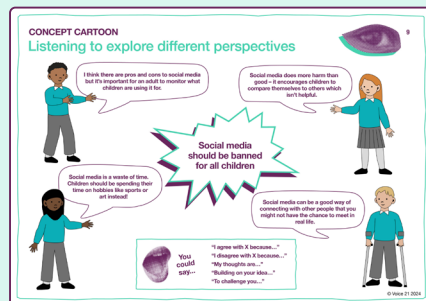
Challenge



Working in a group of 4-6, discuss the **Concept Cartoon** on the following page. Before you start, make a note of which characters you agree or disagree with and why. You'll need to remember this for an activity after the discussion.

After your group discussion, share what you thought before and what you think now. If your opinion changed, explain why. Did someone else's ideas help you see things differently?

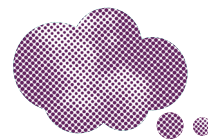
To understand everyone's ideas better, ask probing questions. These questions help you learn why others think the way they do.



You could say...

"Why do you think...?"

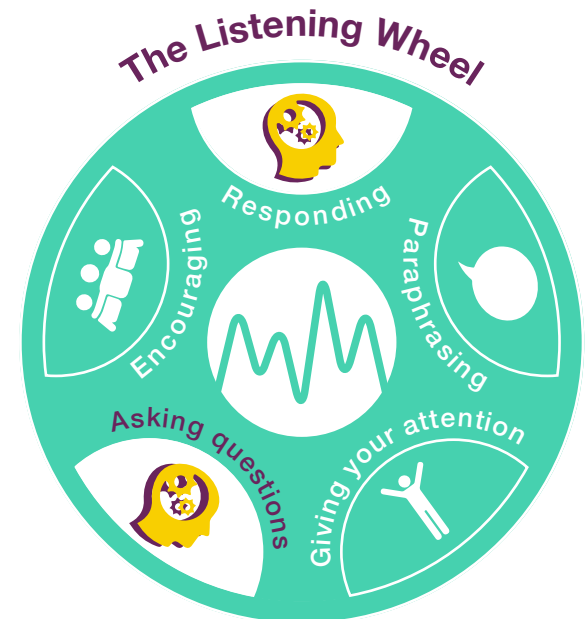
"Have you thought about...?"



Reflection

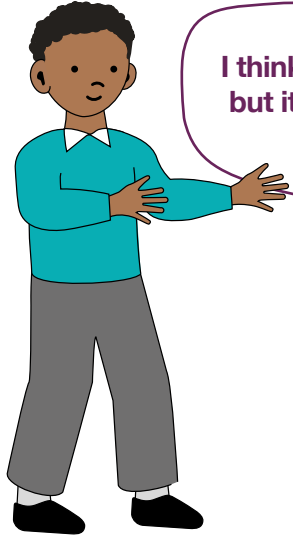
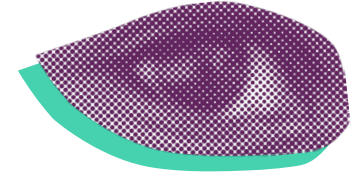
Were you reluctant to change your mind? If you were, why do you think that was?

Was there someone you fully agreed with or did you agree with different elements of what people said?



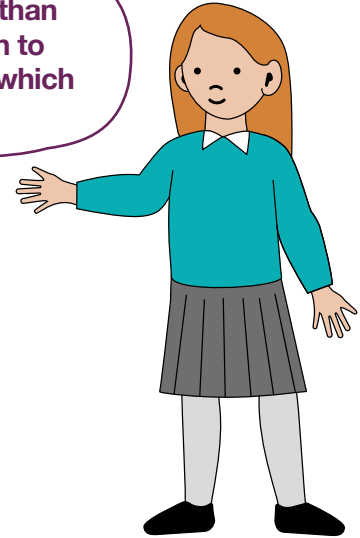
CONCEPT CARTOON

Listening to explore different perspectives



I think there are pros and cons to social media but it's important for an adult to monitor what children are using it for.

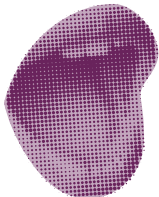
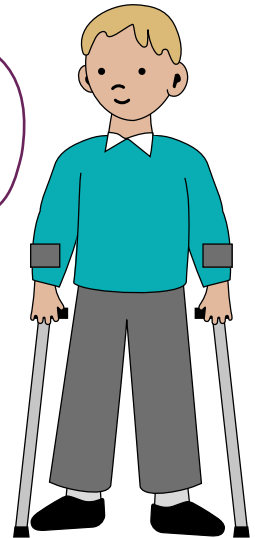
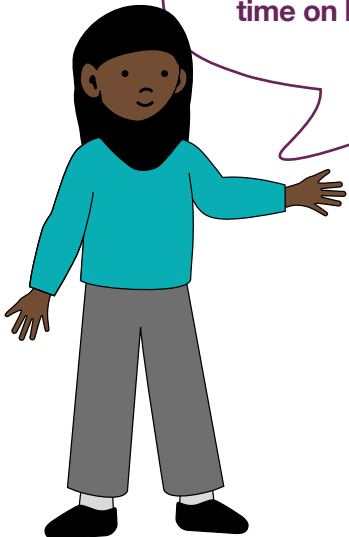
Social media does more harm than good – it encourages children to compare themselves to others which isn't helpful.



Social media should be banned for all children

Social media is a waste of time. Children should be spending their time on hobbies like sports or art instead!

Social media can be a good way of connecting with other people that you might not have the chance to meet in real life.



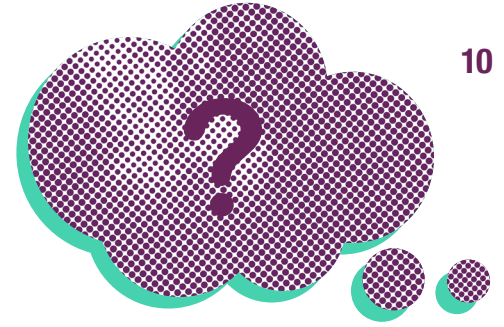
You could say...

- “I agree with X because...”
- “I disagree with X because...”
- “My thoughts are...”
- “Building on your idea...”
- “To challenge you...”

Challenge 5

Reflecting on these challenges

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Which was your favourite challenge and why?



Which skills from the Listening Wheel do you think you have improved on the most?



Do you think your view on the importance of listening has changed?



Which aspects of listening do you still struggle with?
How do you think you could improve these skills?





Here at Voice 21, we'd love to hear your thoughts and reflections on Oracy October!

You could upload videos, pictures of your challenges in action or even written reflections after you have completed each challenge. We look forward to seeing your contributions.

With an adult's help, share your reflections or progress against the challenges with us on X/Twitter.

Tag @voice21oracy and use the hashtag #OracyOctober

