



Priming for Listening

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1. Schema theory

Theory (or theories) about background knowledge – how we make sense out of what we read **or hear** by seeing how it fits in with *what we already know*. They guide expectations in our attempts to understand a meaningful piece of language – written or *spoken*. Schemata are networked, they can interact. They are acquired through experience, and can be restructured.

Content schemata: about the physical world of discernible objects and actions – world/topic knowledge

Formal schemata: is abstract, an encoded, internalized, knowledge e.g. textual organization (genre - rhetorical patterns, story grammar, narrative scripts); language (grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation): speaker (accents, style, speed etc)

2. Priming for content: meaning building (some examples)

A Visuals



B Opening liners

- 1 Once upon a time ...
- 2 Have you heard the one about ...
- 3 Are you doing anything this evening?
- 4 Can I help you?
- 5 Apparently

C Word clouds



D Conversation frames

	Inviting someone to do something	
You	Suggest going out for a meal	
Friend	Ask when	Etc

3. Priming for sounds: decoding (some examples)

A Phrase play (or folk fonetics)

1. sail does far
2. lep me juss get this
3. they look tut thee ya
4. which wa zabada thousand
5. all over the wood
6. mice fum new kay an Norway

B Acoustic drilling - The same word?

according to **a** report
from **a a** Scientific American
which was about **a** thousand

4 Over to you: Audio script - ticket seller and a Spanish tourist in Wales

- TS: Can I help you?
T: Hello, yes, um, are there any good day trips from here?
TS: Well, you can go up Snowdon.
T: Oh, I don't know – I haven't got good shoes for mountains ...
TS: But you can go up on the mountain railway. Snowdon's the highest mountain in Wales.
T: Oh. How high is it?
TS: About 3,500 feet. That's about 1,000 metres.
T: How far is it from here to the station?
TS: It's 4½ miles. There's a bus from here to the station.
T: Oh – so it's not far. How long's the journey?
TS: The round trip's 2½ hours, but of course you can stay longer at the top.
T: Is it cold?
TS: Yes, it's often quite windy, but there's a restaurant.
T: Oh really? How much is the train fare?
TS: The return fare's £21.
T: Oh, right. It's a bit expensive.
TS: OK. Another trip you can take is Anglesey

5. References / resources ...

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