



**AN EAR FOR THE LANGUAGE: SELF-ASSESSMENT QUIZ**

Here are 15 sentences. How many of them do you agree are true for you? Write 4 (=always true), 3 (=often true), 2 (=sometimes true), 1 (=rarely true), 0 (=never true).

.....	1. I often have/ought to ask English-speakers to repeat what they have said to me.
.....	2. I have difficulty understanding news programmes in English on the radio..
.....	3. Any slight increase in background noise makes it more difficult for me to understand what someone is saying in English.
.....	4. In conversation in English, I find when I am listening that I move my head towards the speaker.
.....	5. When I write English, I often leave out, or confuse, the articles "a" and "the".
.....	6. I rarely mistake the tense of a verb in a grammar exercise, but I very often do so when I am speaking English.
.....	7. I have difficulty repeating exactly, word for word, any English sentence that I hear.
.....	8. I have difficulty following any conversation between two native English-speakers, whether on TV or in real life.
.....	9. When I am asked a question in English, I generally feel that my response is slow.
.....	10. It sometimes seems to me as if my English goes in one ear and out the other. It doesn't stop.
.....	11. My speech is not idiomatic.
.....	12. I start a sentence but "dry up" before I finish it.
.....	13. When I write, my English seems to be artificial, not at all like English as it is spoken.
.....	14. I work out in my head what I want to say before I say it.
.....	15. I sometimes feel that there is no point in continuing to study the language.
.....	total

Any score over 40 shows a serious listening problem that needs work.

**Notes**

A technical name for the listening problem is Complex Auditory Processing Deficiency (CAPD). When you listen, hearing is combined with syntactical and contextual and visual clues. Generally speaking, a positive answer to 10 is the key response: it suggests that learning will be slow. Positive answers to 1 -3 - 5- 7 - 9 - 11 would be normal for a Japanese student at intermediate (high school leaving) level

Positive answers to 2 - 6 - 8 - 13 would be normal for Japanese students up to advanced level. A positive answer to 4 may indicate a physical hearing problem. A positive answer to 15 indicates the student needs more effective learning strategies; and to 14, the student is translating, which will slow responses and make effective conversation difficult, perhaps impossible.