**Lesson 2**

Predicting

We make predictions all the time. For example, we predict how long it will take to write an email, or how a friend will react to some news we have to give him/her, or what today’s video will be about. When listening to a foreign language we can use two main types of information to help us to predict what is going to be said next.

**Background knowledge**

* general knowledge of the world
* knowledge of the foreign culture
* specific subject knowledge

**Context**

* the situation (Who is speaking, where and when)
* images, pictures
* The co-text – What has been said so far (linguistic knowledge)

Guessing ahead in this way is particularly relevant in listening. You can use your subject knowledge to help you predict what the speaker is likely to say. In this lesson you will be using what you already know to help predict what might be included in a video on *Solar Power*.

**Using your notes to answer questions**

One reason for taking notes is for you to remember well enough to answer questions on a test. Sometimes in college classes you are given the questions you will be asked before you hear a lecture. Thinking about these questions ahead of time will help you focus on the main ideas and important details as you listen to the lectures and take notes.

**Using your notes to write a summary**

Summarising is an essential study skill. It means reducing a whole lecture (or part of a lecture) to a few sentences. A good summary shows that you have understood what the lecture is about and what the most important points are. It is a helpful record for you to review when you are studying for a test. Use your notes to help you write your summary. Reread your notes and select the most important points that the lecturer made. Write a summary in which you explain the main points in your own words.

Monitoring

Monitoring, which means checking or observing, plays an important role in effective listening. Effective listeners check whether they correctly understand the meaning of whole chunks of the message, monitor any confusion they encounter, and correct inaccurate guesses.

When you are reading, you can always go back and read something again if you find it hard to understand. But listening is more difficult in this respect. In a conversation you may be able to ask the speaker to repeat or explain, but this not the case in one-way listening, as it is a recorded lecture.

On the other hand, you can expect the speaker to keep more or less to the same subject. However, there will also be points where he/she ‘changes direction’, for example, presenting contrasting opinions on the subject, or giving examples that contradict each other.

Monitoring includes asking yourself these questions:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Have I heard that correctly? * Have I understood what the speaker meant? * Have I understood why the speaker said it? | * Has the speaker changed topic? * What is the speaker going to say next? |

***Pre- Listening Tasks***

***Concentrated solar power***

1. *How much do you know about solar power?*
2. Choose the best option for each multiple choice questions

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. If all the energy of the sun shining on the Earth's land mass could be harnessed, it would be enough to meet the world's power needs how many times over?   1. 6 times 2. 60 times 3. 600 times 4. 6,000 times | 2. Which is not a solar energy technology?   1. concentrated solar power 2. photovoltaic systems 3. water dams 4. solar water heaters |
| 3. Which system uses sunlight through the ‘photovoltaic effect’ to generate direct electric current (DC) in a direct electricity production process?   1. PV solar panels 2. CSP thermal system | 4. Which system is capable of storing energy by using Thermal Energy Storage technologies (TES) and using it at times of low or no sunlight?   1. PV solar panels 2. CSP thermal system |
| 5. Concentrating solar power plants do not need photovoltaic cells. What do they need?   1. Large land area 2. Water 3. Reflectors 4. All of the above |  |

*Taken from:* http://www.renewablegreenenergypower.com

1. Try to answer the questions below.
2. **What is solar power?**
3. **How does solar power work?**
4. **What solar energy systems can you mention?**
5. **What are the benefits of solar energy?**
6. **What are the arguments against?**
7. Now read the text below and see if you were right.

Did you know that the amount of sunlight that strikes the earth's surface in an hour and a half is enough to handle the entire world's energy consumption for a full year? Solar energy can be used with renewable solar technologies to replace conventional energy systems that consume fossil fuels, thus help reduce harmful emissions into the atmosphere and help reduce greenhouse effect and global warming.

Solar energy has amazing potential to power our daily lives thanks to constantly-improving technologies. Solar energy systems come in all shapes and sizes. Residential systems are found on rooftops, and businesses are also opting to install solar panels to offset their energy costs. Utilities, too, are building large solar power plants to provide cleaner energy to all customers connected to the grid.

There are two main types of solar energy technologies—photovoltaic (PV) and concentrating solar power (CSP). You're likely most familiar with PV, which is utilized in panels. When the sun shines onto a solar panel, photons from the sunlight are absorbed by the cells in the panel, which creates an electric field across the layers and causes electricity to flow.

The second technology is concentrating solar power, or CSP. It is used primarily in very large power plants and is not appropriate for residential use. This technology uses mirrors to reflect and concentrate sunlight onto receivers that collect solar energy and convert it to heat, which can then be used to produce electricity.

Adapted from: https://energy.gov/eere/energybasics/articles/solar-energy-technology-basics

2. Vocabulary

Match the words on the left to the correct definition in the right.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Solar power tower |  | They are the large-scale application of solar panels or mirrors to generate green, clean electricity at scale, usually to feed into the grid. |
| 1. Heliostats |  | It achieves heat high enough to turn water into steam. |
| 1. Solar farms |  | They are fluids of chemical components with thermal properties. |
| 1. Boiler |  | It is the receiver of the captured sunlight. It has thermal energy-storage capability allowing electricity production during cloudy weather or at night. |
| 1. Molten salts |  | They are computer controlled mirrors which follow the movement of the sun. |

*3. Look at the pictures taken from different sections of the video. Predict what the video will present about concentrated solar power. Write a short description under each picture.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
| ***a)*** | ***b)*** |
|  |  |
| ***c)*** | ***d)*** |

*4. Predict the order in which the pictures will appear on the video. Then compare your predictins with another parter.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

***First listening***

*Listen and watch the video on concentrated solar power. As you do, take notes using telegraphic language, conventional symbols and abbreviations. Write down your notes in one of the formats you already know.*

***Second listening***

*The teacher will now play the video a second time. Look at your notes and listen carefully for points where, during the first listening:*

* *You didn’t catch what the speaker said.*
* *You didn’t have time to note all the details.*
* *You misunderstood what was said.*

***After listening***

*After watching the video, compare the content of your notes with those of another student. Ask yourself the following:*

* *Have you included the same information?*
* *If you missed any points, has your partner made notes on them?*
* *If there were points (words or sections) that neither of you could understand, can others in the class help?*

*Now compare the form of your notes. For this you will need to put them side-by-side. Look for differences between the ways in which you have used:*

* + *abbreviations*
  + *symbols*
  + *telegraphic language*
  + *spatial layout*
  + *emphasis*

***Follow-up***

1. *Write a one-paragraph summary of the video you’ve just watched. Use your notes to write it.*