



Task 4: Decision – Cosmetic Surgery or Not?

To deliver your speech at the public speaking contest later, you need to collect informed opinions about what cosmetic surgery can and cannot achieve.

To help you do this task, your training instructor now asks you to listen to the third part of the Teen Time programme on self-esteem and cosmetic surgery. It is a continuation of the interview you listened to in Task 3, and you are asked to take note of the things which should be taken into consideration before anyone decides to have cosmetic surgery.

As usual, complete the following pre-listening activity to prepare yourself better for the listening task.

Pre-listening Activity: Role-play

Work in groups of three. Study the role cards below and decide on a role for each group member. Then do a role-play in which Student A tells the other two students that s/he wants to get cosmetic surgery. Student B should be supportive of the idea while Student C should be against it.

Student A

You are a secondary student. You are not happy with your looks because you think that you are fat, your eyes are too small, and your nose is not straight enough. You are considering cosmetic surgery and you want to listen to your best friends' views.

Student B

You are a good friend of Student A's. You think that cosmetic surgery can improve your friend's looks and restore his/her confidence. Tell Student A that it is all right for him/her to have the surgery.

Student C

You are Student A's close friend. You think that inner beauty is more important than physical appearance. You also think that cosmetic surgery is dangerous, so you do not want Student A to take the risk.





Part A: Listening for the Main Idea

You will now listen to a radio interview involving the host of the Teen Time radio programme, an expatriate, and a cosmetic surgeon. As you listen, decide whether the expatriate and the cosmetic surgeon are for or against cosmetic surgery.

Put a tick (✓) in the appropriate box, and write down one positive or negative expression used by each speaker in support of his view.

1. On the whole, the expatriate is supportive of cosmetic surgery.
True False

2. A word / phrase used by the expatriate that reveals his attitude is:

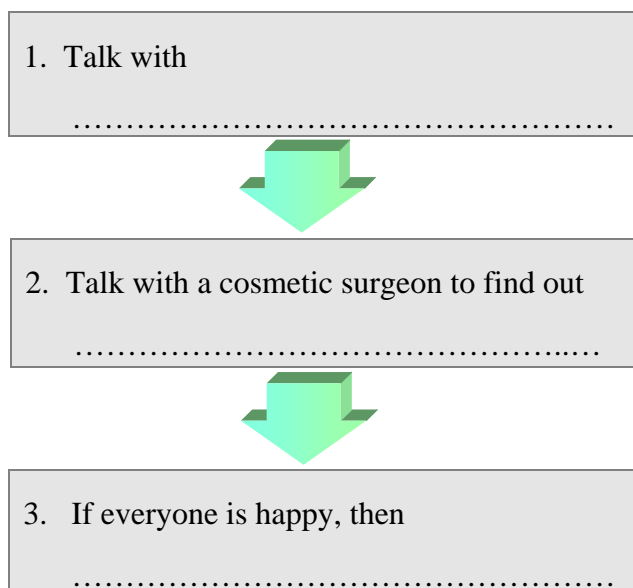
3. On the whole, the cosmetic surgeon is supportive of cosmetic surgery.
True False

4. A word / phrase used by the cosmetic surgeon that reveals his attitude is:

Part B: Listening for Details

You now have the chance to listen to the recording again. This time, you are asked to find out what people should consider before they decide to have cosmetic surgery. As you listen, fill in the chart below.

How to decide whether to have cosmetic surgery or not





Part C: Understanding Natural English

The training instructor points out that when people speak naturally, their sentences may not be well planned. For example, they may hesitate and use filler words such as “well” and “I mean”, they may not pronounce all the words clearly, and they may start to say something and then stop to rephrase it.

Knowing such features should help you to understand the main ideas of natural English more easily. For example, you can focus on meaningful groups of words while listening and ignore the “imperfect” hesitations. Such meaningful groups will tell you the main ideas of the speakers.

The training instructor now wants you to listen to an extract from the radio interview again. In this extract, the cosmetic surgeon expresses some ideas, but his language is not too well planned. Listen carefully. Can you understand what the cosmetic surgeon means? Take notes and summarise the main points made.

Summary

The main points made by the cosmetic surgeon are ...

1. _____
2. _____

Part D: What do You Think?

The three speakers in the radio interview hold different views about whether cosmetic surgery is desirable or necessary.

What is *your* own view? Which speaker do you agree with most?

Write down your thoughts below, as the training instructor feels that you can use this information later.

I agree with _____ most because _____





Self-reflection

You have completed a variety of listening tasks using a range of listening strategies so far in this Unit. How well have you been doing? Do you think that you are now more confident in listening to natural English because you know what to do to understand what people mean? Here is an activity for you to evaluate your performance.

Self-reflection Form

Name: _____ Form: _____ Date: _____

How well can you understand natural English? Assess your own performance by putting a tick (✓) in the appropriate box.

	Yes	No	Sometimes
Preparing to listen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can figure out why I am listening. I can predict words I may hear before I start listening. I can predict the content of what I am going to listen to. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Listening for the main idea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can listen to a whole conversation or discussion and understand the main ideas. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Listening for details <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can listen carefully to find the answers to specific questions. I can use the questions given to help me decide what is and is not important. I can take notes to help me identify supporting ideas. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Listening for attitudes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can work out the opinions and attitudes of different speakers. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Making inferences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can guess ideas not directly expressed by the speakers. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

