

Identifying and Using the Context

The context helps us comprehend better. Context includes *who's* talking to *whom*, *where*, the *vocabulary*, the *style* of communication.

1. Listen to the following 12 short extracts. Choose which of the above types of listening it was. Discuss what helped you to make your decisions (e.g. words, phrases, background noises, style)

- Instructions
- Lecture or talk
- Speech
- Directions
- Conversation between friends
- News bulletin
- Telephone information line
- Advertisement
- Film or play
- Joke
- Weather forecast
- Traffic report
- Commentary
- Part of a novel (read aloud)
- Interview
- Poems
- Telephone conversation
- Public announcement

1.	7.
2.	8.
3.	9.
4.	10.
5.	11.
6.	12.

2. Listen again. This time, you’re going to concentrate on who is talking and who is listening, where the ‘talking’ takes place, what might have led up to this happening, the feelings being expressed, and the relationship between the speakers.

Extract 1

- a. Where did this take place?
- b. What words/phrases did you hear that helped you decide?

Extract 2

- a. Where did the conversation take place?
- b. What phrase gave you the answer?
- c. What’s the probable relationship between the speakers?

Extract 3

- a. How well do you think they know each other?
- b. What impression do you have of the second character, and why do you think this?

Extract 4

- a. Why did the listener call this number?

Extract 5

- a. Who's she speaking to?
- b. What is she going to do?

Extract 6

- a. Where might you have heard this?
- b. How does Gino feel about his walk to Anna's table?

Extract 7

- a. Who might be interested in this?
- b. What are the key information words for an interested listener?

Extract 8

- a. What impression/mood does the speaker want to give?

Extract 9

- a. What has led up to the speaker's words?
- b. How does the speaker make a (small) joke?

Extract 10

- a. Who might be listening to this speaker?

Extract 11

- a. Who's speaking?
- b. Who answered his question?

Extract 12

- a. What detail might Milton Davies give?

3. You're going to hear eight different extracts. Listen to each one in turn and answer the following questions. The first extract has been done for you. The eight extracts have the same questions.

- 1. What's the extract about? *The speaker's first helicopter flight*
- 2. How does the person feel? Choose one of the adjectives below
Excited *pleased* *annoyed* *sorry*
- 3. What words did (s)he say that gave you this impression? *'I'm really looking forward to it.'*

Extract 2

Extract 3

Extract 4

Extract 5

Extract 6

Extract 7

Extract 8

4. Listen to the conversation between Kathy and Philip once, without stopping the tape. See if you can answer any of the above questions. Listen again, stopping the tape where you need to write down your answers

Before you listen, read the questions below:

1. Where does the conversation take place? What clues led you to this conclusion
2. What are the two people doing?
3. Who's the man talking about when he says, "she didn't seem too pleased about that, did she?"
4. The man said, "I stood at the stop and three went past..." Three what?
5. What did the woman buy last week?
6. Why does the man say 'as usual'?
7. What can you guess about the person who arrives in the car?
8. What impression do you have of the woman's character?
9. And of the man's character?