

Listening Comprehension Exercise / Demonstration

Read the passage below from a typical classroom student to teacher distance. Do not allow speechreading. When the story is completed, ask the student the questions that follow. The last two questions would be for older students as they require a higher level of comprehension. This exercise can also be used for simulating the effects of mild/unilateral hearing loss with classroom teachers. Move around the room and prevent the 'student' from speechreading to provide further simulation of classroom listening. Shake a single sheet of paper to create a high frequency noise to illustrate listening with a bit of background noise. Follow the demonstration with a discussion of how it felt to be listening with this "little" hearing loss (i.e., impact on attention, behavior, understanding, self-esteem, keeping pace with classroom progress, etc.).

Mother's Aprons

One afternoon, while looking through an old chest, I found one of my mother's aprons. I remembered that aprons were her favorite article of clothing. She wore them until past her ninetieth birthday and said she did not feel dressed without one.

Mother wore a starched and ironed apron almost all day when she was at home. When not in use, the apron hung on a special nail in the kitchen. All sorts of useful things could be found in the pockets – safety pins, hair pins, and an extra handkerchief for children needing a nose wipe.

Mother wore a variety of styles for various chores. Before preparing breakfast, she put a bright, clean apron over her housedress. When Mother went into the kitchen wearing her big bib apron, we children knew that she would be making something good to eat. Soon delicious aromas filled the kitchen – perhaps from a pudding, a pie, a cake, cookies, doughnuts, or several loaves of special home-baked bread. Older faded aprons were saved for wash days and housecleaning. Sometimes these aprons were used as baskets for carrying the Plymouth Rock chicken eggs Mother gathered. Sometimes a few ears of corn from the vegetable garden found their way into the garment's voluminous folds.

Mother's aprons were works of art, whether handmade or sewn on an old treadle machine. Scraps of material, worn-out dresses, and parts of Father's shirts were turned into aprons that were both pretty and functional. Everything was used, nothing was wasted.

1. What event caused the author to think about her Mother's aprons? *She found one while looking in an old chest.*
2. How old was Mother when she stopped wearing aprons? *Past 90.*
3. Where was the apron kept when not in use? *On a special nail in the kitchen.*
4. What was kept in the pockets? *Safety pins, hair pins, handkerchiefs.*
5. When did mother put on her apron? *Before preparing breakfast.*
6. What apron signaled that mother was going to make something good to eat? *The big bib apron.*
7. What were older aprons used for? *Wash days, housecleaning, carrying eggs or ears of corn.*
8. What were the aprons made of? *Worn out dresses, parts of Father's shirts.*
9. Why were Mother's aprons works of art? *She made them herself out of scraps available that were turned into aprons that were both pretty and functional.*
10. Why do you think Mother's aprons were her favorite article of clothing? *She had made them all out of scraps of material and they were both pretty and functional. She liked to put on different aprons to do different chores. She said she did not feel dressed without her apron.*