

Hear and listen

We use these verbs to talk about our sense of hearing - using our ears. But they have important differences in meaning.

'**Hear**' means that sounds come into our ears. It may not be something you intended to hear:

*I **heard** a beep on my phone.*
*I suddenly **heard** a loud bang.*
*Can you speak up please? I can't **hear** you.*

'Listen (to)' means that we try to hear. We pay attention and try to understand:

Listen! Is someone crying?
Listen to this song. Can you understand the lyrics?
I'm listening but I can't hear anything.

When we use listen with an object, we say listen + to + object,:

John is listening to the radio.
Rosy is listening to her brother.

There is a difference between hear (public) and listen (to) (non-public) for radio, concerts, talks, lectures, etc.:

*We went to **hear** the President's big speech last night.*
*I **heard** Madonna singing "Like A Virgin" at the concert.*
*Do you ever **listen to** Spotify?*

Skills wise...now let's try:

1. I can _____ the baby crying. There must be something wrong.
2. Hey! _____. The birds are singing again.
3. I can't _____ you. My dad is hovering up.
4. We _____ something fall down the stairs.
5. Be quiet, please. I'm _____ to the radio.
6. Are you allowed to _____ to music at work?
7. I haven't seen any lightning, but I just _____ some thunder.
8. Listen! Can you _____ the church bells? It must be ten o'clock.
9. I called my dad but he didn't _____ me.
10. I like _____ to different playlists on Spotify.
11. I always _____ my dad.