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Mrs. Monroe

Orientation to College

Week 5

Inactive Listening vs. Active Listening

Active listening is the ear to hear what is not being said. The ability to decipher what a person's true intentions and message is through observation. Purposely looking at the body language and facial expressions to get a better understanding of where the person is coming from. Inactive listening is listening through the filter of distraction. This would be the exact opposite of active listening. An example is having a conversation with someone who is glued to their phone. To inactively listen shows the person who is the speaker, that as the listener, there is a strong disinterest or lack of care and concern for what is being discussed. In the video clip from "The Big Bang Theory", Sheldon passionately wanted to talk about the technology behind his gaming systems and how he would have a hard time picking what he wanted due to the upgrades. Amy was very disinterested, continuing to eat and ask for condiments despite her attention clearly being wanted at the time. Once Sheldon made it a point to let Amy know he felt like she didn't care, she angrily set down her fork to give Sheldon her undivided attention; going so far to even ask questions and include his tech terminology back to him as if she was relating. Finally once he finished his monologue, being satisfied with having a listening ear, she yelled to him to "PASS THE BUTTER!". As that was all she wanted the whole time, thus also showing that perhaps Amy wasn't the only one inactively listening.