



## Youth Behaviour

### Task: The Complexity of Teaching Teenagers

#### Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 10.

You are going to hear a talk about **the complexity of teaching teenagers**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

#### Audio Script

Throughout the growing process of being a teenager, sometimes adults in general have a problem understanding what is going through the head of a teenager. This is often because most adults have forgotten about what it was like for them at that time in their life. This can be particularly challenging for teachers that often have to deal with behavioural problems from teenagers that hide under a facade of sarcasm and mockery to hide what are usually their insecurities.

First and foremost, it can be quite a process to go through leaving childhood and becoming an adult. Unlike most adults, teenagers are living through many first time experiences and the emotions that go with them, often trying to decide what is the right way to act in a given situation. Not having such experiences can make it rather difficult to come up with a logical reaction in what they should and shouldn't do. We also mustn't forget that a huge amount of psychological development happens when one is a teenager. Furthermore, even though children start to develop hormones at the age of seven or eight, teenagers produce the chemicals in their hormones that allows them to grow physically and sexually that will carry them into their adulthood, which isn't at all surprising the stress a teenager can experience. This is certainly visible in boys, where the production of testosterone increases ten times over, often making it difficult to control their emotions. So, it can easily be understood why most teenagers go through what is known as the invisible stage. Teenagers that suffer through this, feel that they are being watched by everybody, making them the center of attention in their own mind. This is definitely not true in the majority of the cases, but it is absolutely understandable why this would cause the majority of teenagers to be afraid of taking risks, being laughed at or feeling embarrassed. Sometimes adults find this behaviour a bit ridiculous. Notwithstanding, we mustn't forget that these are real emotions that a teen is going through. Last but not least, we can see that all of this can be rather overwhelming and a young person may be looking for the approval of others in most things that they do. For that, it has been seen that teens rely heavily on their relationship with their peers, mainly from their circle of friends.

Over the course of time, a teacher might encounter many different cases that may make it daunting to teach teenagers. However, any teacher worth their weight in gold will not give up. There are some things a teacher can do to help them get through to their teenage students. A case in point could be that instead of giving feedback to one student in particular, give a general feedback to all the students at once. Underneath some of the

overly confident attitudes that some teenagers display, this is often to cover their insecurity and they do this in order to have you under the impression that they aren't feeling so insecure. For this very reason, a teacher shouldn't put teenagers on the spot to have to answer if they aren't feeling prepared. They must be given time for them to think. In this way, they don't feel as if they are being watched and judged by everybody. Additionally, you may laugh your head off when a teenager takes everything to heart in what you say, but for this very reason, it is important that they are encouraged to have interactions with their peers in small groups. Reason being is that the opinions that come from their peers are important to them and it makes them feel accepted, therefore they end up accepting themselves. So, as a final thought here, you will find that teenagers that don't like their teachers will do nothing but complain. Teachers should really take the time to take notice of what a teenager likes, what is popular and what technology can be used. With this approach, they will be able to be taught more easily.

Do you think it might be a good idea for teachers to have yearly workshops on reminding them how to get through to teenagers? It could be a good objective because teachers ought to have patience and offer guidance during what is turmoil for many youths that are growing into adulthood. Everybody has been a teenager at one point in their life, and it is of the utmost importance that a teen can go to an adult that they trust and can rely on, which a teacher should totally be one of these types of adults.

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me about the point of view of the speaker, what teenagers are going through and the recommended things that teachers can do.

Now tell me about the point of view of the speaker, what teenagers are going through and the recommended things that teachers can do. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

**Answers:**

Point of View	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ought to have patience and offer guidance, (because everybody has been a teenager at one point, and it is important to be an adult that teenagers can rely on)</li> </ul>
What teenagers are going through	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Going through the process leaving childhood and becoming an adult; many first time experiences and emotions</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Huge amount of psychological development happens when a teenager; developing hormones</li> <li>• Go through the invisible stage; feel as being watched by everybody (being the center of attention)</li> <li>• Afraid of taking risks, being laughed at, embarrassed, all real emotions</li> <li>• Teenagers rely heavily on their relationship with their peers and need approval from their circle of friends.</li> </ul>
<p>Recommended things that teachers can do</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• give general feedback to all students, not just one in particular</li> <li>• Do not put a teenager on the spot to have to answer, allow time for them to think. (so they don't feel that everybody is watching and judging them)</li> <li>• Encourage interactions with their peers in small groups, opinions from peers are important and when accepted, they accept themselves.</li> <li>• Take notice of what a teenager likes, what is popular and what technology you can use, will be able to teach them more easily</li> </ul>

Marks: +\_ / +10