

Australian Winters

Preparing to Take Notes

Strategy 1: Brainstorming



Look at the title of the talk and think about the topic before you listen to the lecture. This will help you become familiar with the topic and help you remember the topic (key) words. Use the following questions to help you brainstorm.

a. Answer the following questions with your partner.

- Where is Australia?
- How many seasons are there in Australia? What are they like?
- What are the winter and summer months?
- What are the popular cities in Australia?

b. Look at the map below and circle the following cities on the map? What might the weather be like there?

Victoria Tasmania Melbourne Hobart
New South Whales Queensland Northern Territory



Strategy 2: Predicting what you will listen to



Guessing about the content of what you will listen to will help you listen to the lecture more attentively. Also, it will give you a reason to listen. Be specific while guessing the content of the lecture.

- c. Note down the possible topics or examples you may hear during the lecture. Then, share it with your partner/group.

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Strategy 3: Knowing the topic vocabulary



Study the topic vocabulary. Knowing the meaning of key vocabulary and how the words are pronounced will help you understand the speaker more easily and note down the words more quickly.

- a. Practice pronouncing the words aloud with your partner. Use the dictionary to check their meanings and pronunciations if you need to.

Depend on (v):

Example sentences: Not everybody is allowed to ride motorbikes. It depends on your age. Your school grades depend on your studying. If you study regularly, you get high grades; however, if you don't study regularly, you may get low grades. Your success depends on how often you study.

Last (v):

How long does the winter last in Turkey? How long does the summer last in Spain?

Climate (n):

Adana and Mersin have a mild climate. It doesn't get very cold there.

Location (n):

The location of your flat is very important because the weather gets really cold in the winter in the North.

Island (n):

There are many smaller islands around Australia and people live on these islands.

Continent (n):

There are 7 continents in the world which are Europe, Asia, , Australia, Africa, North and South America, and Antarctica.

Chilly (adj): The weather gets chilly in the evenings during the spring time. You need to wear a cardigan.

While taking notes

Strategy 4: Noticing the content words

Remember, the speaker doesn't dictate you what to write. You need to choose what to note down and how to take notes. Remember, you cannot write down everything you hear! So, you should focus on noting down the content words. Content words are the words which carry meaning.

- b.** Look at the introduction of the short talk you will listen to and circle the content words. *You may circle them with their collocations.

i.e on vacation

"The winter in Australia usually starts in May and lasts until June to August. The length of the winter depends on where you are, because Australia is a very big island."

Strategy 5: Noting down the key words

Once you have figured out the content words, you can be even more selective about what you write down. Remember, you cannot note down everything you hear. You need to skip some words and note down others. Key words are the words that carry important messages.

- a.** Which words carry the most important messages in these sentences?
Underline the words that are really important to remember when you are reading your notes later. These are the key words.

The text: ...

"The winter in Australia usually starts in May and lasts or in other words continues until June to August. The length of the winter depends on where you are, I mean, on your location because Australia is very big island."

- c.** Look at the example short notes form of the text. Does it make sense to you?
Can you still understand the speaker's message in short note form? If you can, the notes are good. If not, what else can you add or change?

The short note form:

Winter in Austr. → start (in) May → cont. June to Aug.

Length depends on location bc. Austr. Big island.

Note-taking sheet

Strategy 6: Following the headings



The note taking sheet helps you follow the text easily. The headings help you notice where the speaker is, so if you get lost while listening, you can look at the headings and continue taking notes.

- d. Listen to the talk in two parts. Try to note down the key words under the correct headlines. You will listen to each part twice.

Australia and its winters

Part 1:

Introduction:

General info about Austr.:

Stop and check your notes with a friend. Now answer the Part 1 questions on page 7 using your notes.

Part 2:

Winters in Austr.:

Info about the South of Austr:

Interesting info:

Conclusion:

Now answer the Part 2 questions on page 7. Use your notes!

After Listening

After Listening

Strategy 7: Compare your notes

While learning to take notes, it is always useful to compare your notes and your note taking strategies with your partners. You may learn something new from each other and you can improve your notes and your note-taking strategies.

- a. Compare your notes with your partner and add the notes you have missed. Then, talk about the differences and compare the strategies you used.

Comprehension questions

The aim of this part is to check your understanding of the talk. Are the statements *true* or *false*? Are your notes helpful?

Part 1:

1. Which one is the biggest island?
a) Australia b) Greenland c) Tasmania
2. Australia is the world's _____ biggest country.

Part 2:

3. According to the talk, it is winter in Australia. T/F
4. The length of the winter in Australia is the same everywhere T/F
5. The days are _____ and _____ in Victoria and Tasmania in the winters.
6. It doesn't snow much in Melbourne. T/F
7. Skiing is possible between _____ and _____ in Australia.
8. The most popular time for skiing is _____.
9. New Zealand is more popular for skiing because (give two reasons)

10. The speaker thinks Queensland is very interesting. T/F
11. Why can some people go skiing and others go swimming?
12. Are there some places in Turkey that you can swim and ski on the same day?

Strategy 8 (optional). Noticing the repeated sections

In most talks, speakers usually repeat or paraphrase the most important or difficult parts of the lecture in order to catch the listeners' attention or help the listener notice those parts. These repeated parts will also help you while taking notes because you may miss what the speaker said the first time but catch what the speaker said when the information is repeated.

- e. Look at the tape script and underline the repeated parts. Then, check your notes and see if you wrote those parts twice. If you wrote those parts twice, do you think you need to write them twice or is noting them down once enough? Why/why not?

Reflection: Which strategies did you use to take notes? Which ones did you find useful? Why? Why not?

Do you have any different strategies? Share with your partner/group.