

Give Me a Sign!



Warm-Up

1. Look at the boxes below. What words or phrases can you think of that have the same meaning? Write them under the box. The first one is done for you.



That's terrible!

Oh no!

.....
.....
.....



I'm surprised!

Really!

.....
.....
.....



That's great!

Wonderful!

.....
.....
.....



I'm listening.

Uh-hvh.

.....
.....
.....



I agree.

Me too.

.....
.....
.....



I disagree.

I don't think so.

.....
.....
.....

2. Compare your answers with other students.

STRATEGIES: VERBAL CUES

Verbal Cues (VCs) are messages that the listener sends the speaker during a conversation. They are like a road map. A road map helps a driver decide where to go. *VCs* help a speaker decide what to say and do. Look at the picture below.



Look at the Glossary of Verbal Cues. Practice the example conversations with a partner.

Glossary of Verbal Cues

MESSAGE	POSSIBLE VERBAL CUES	EXAMPLE CONVERSATIONS
I'm listening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uh-huh/Mm-hmm. • Right. • Yes. • Go on. 	<p>A: Let me tell you about my weekend. B: Uh-huh.</p>
I agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think so too. • That's true. • Me too. • Me neither. 	<p>A: I think that Japan is a beautiful country. B: That's true.</p>
I disagree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm sorry, but I disagree. • I'm not sure about that. • I don't think so. 	<p>A: <i>Natto</i> is delicious! B: I don't think so.</p>
I'm surprised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Really? • You're kidding! • Wow! 	<p>A: I met Hikaru Utada on the train yesterday. B: You're kidding!</p>
I don't understand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sorry? • What? • Excuse me? 	<p>A: Nationalistic tendencies can be harmful. B: Excuse me?</p>
That's good news	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That's nice. • Great! • Congratulations. • Good for you! 	<p>A: I got a promotion at work. B: Good for you!</p>
That's bad news	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That's too bad. • Oh no! • That's terrible/awful. • I'm sorry to hear that. 	<p>A: I failed my test last week. B: That's too bad.</p>



Practice

Look at the statements below. Think of a VC and write it in the space.

I need to tell you some information.	
My wife is having a baby!	
I can't find my wallet.	
This classroom is too hot.	
Diets are dangerous for your health.	
I won a free trip to Canada!	
One in the hand is worth two in the bush.	
Then after I returned home from work . . .	
Fewer people should drive cars.	



Listening Exercise 1



CD-7

STEP 1: Listen to the story about Momotaro.
How many people speak? _____

STEP 2: Listen to the story again.
How many people speak this time? _____

STEP 3: Listen again. What VCs are used?
Check (✓) each time you hear a VC for the messages below.

MESSAGE	CHECKS
I'm listening	
I agree	
I disagree	
I'm surprised	
I don't understand	
That's good news	
That's bad news	



Listening Exercise 2



CD-8

Listen and write a VC for the statements that you hear. Use the glossary on page 14 to help you. The first one is done for you.

- | | |
|------------------|----|
| 1. Good for you! | 5. |
| 2. | 6. |
| 3. | 7. |
| 4. | 8. |



Pair Work

STUDENT A (STUDENT B: Look at page 71.)

- STEP 1:** Read the passage below quietly. Make sure you understand the meaning. Ask your teacher or check the Word List on pages 83–84 if there are words that you do not know.
- STEP 2:** Slowly read the passage to your partner. Your partner will listen and ask you to explain any words that they don't understand.
- STEP 3:** Slowly read the passage to your partner again. Your partner will respond using verbal cues.
- STEP 4:** Listen to your partner read their passage. Ask your partner to explain any words that you do not understand. Think about where you could say verbal cues.
- STEP 5:** Listen to your partner read their passage again. This time respond when you listen with verbal cues.

I want to tell you about my weekend. I went to Tokyo to visit my friend from high school. We had not seen each other for a long time so we were very excited. We both like shopping so we decided to go to Harajuku. I love the fashions that people wear there! I spent 50,000 yen on new clothes. At night we went to a very nice Italian restaurant and it was delicious. After dinner my friend wanted to go for a walk in Yoyogi Park. Actually, I don't like parks in the city because there are always many strange people there. Anyway, while in the park my friend fell down and broke her leg so we had to go to the hospital! But luckily the doctor at the hospital was very nice and gave us ice cream. I returned to my home on Sunday night and didn't go to bed until 2 a.m. because I had to do my English homework. I don't think we have enough homework at this school. How was your weekend?

Wrap-Up

- STEP 1:** Make a group of four or five students.
- STEP 2:** Each student should choose a different topic from below. Take a few minutes to think about what you will say.
- STEP 3:** Talk about it for as long as you can.
- STEP 4:** Other students should listen and respond with verbal cues and ask follow-up questions.
- STEP 5:** Choose a different student to be scorekeeper for each topic. The scorekeeper should use the paper below to keep score. The scorekeeper should not speak.
- STEP 6:** The scorekeeper should make a mark under a person's name every time that person uses a verbal cue. Look at the example below.
- STEP 7:** The student who uses the most verbal cues is the winner.

TOPICS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Something that makes you tired | <input type="checkbox"/> Your ideal pet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Your favorite movie | <input type="checkbox"/> A happy memory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A foreign country you would like to visit | <input type="checkbox"/> A person who impresses you |
| <input type="checkbox"/> An activity you dislike | |

EXAMPLE SCORECARD

Scorekeeper's Name	Verbal Cues (Toru)	Verbal Cues (Rika)	Verbal Cues (Koji)	Verbal Cues (Genki)
Round 1: Ritsuko	√√√	√√	√√√√	√√√√√√
Round 2:				

Note: The winner is Genki because he used the most verbal cues.

REAL SCORECARD

Scorekeeper's Name	Verbal Cues ()			
Round 1:				
Round 2:				
Round 3:				
Round 4:				