

English Verbs: 'Listen' vs 'Hear'

1) Listen to (*intransitive*)

'Listen' is used when we 'pay attention' to something or someone. It is always used with the preposition 'to'.

(Listen is not a transitive verb, so it cannot take a direct object, and you must use a prepositional phrase headed by "to" in order to specify the thing being heard.)(Similar examples: go (to), arrive (at), lie (on), sit (on))

Examples:

1. Always **listen to** the teacher!
2. I'm **listening to** the radio.
3. The boss explained the process and we **listened to** her carefully.
4. Everybody loves **listening to** music.
5. She always **listens to** my stories, she loves them!
6. He is boring, I **don't listen to** what he says.

2) Hear (*transitive*)

'Hear' is used for unexpected sounds.

Examples:

1. Did you **hear** that? I think it was thunder.
2. I **heard** a dog barking a lot during the night.
3. We **heard** a spooky noise coming from the woods.
4. The signal is weak. Can you **hear** me?
5. My uncle can't **hear** very well, he's getting old.
6. Please don't shout, I can **hear** you perfectly.

3) Hear about / Hear that

We use 'hear about' or 'hear that' when we talk about news or gossip (PT: *ouvir falar*).

Examples:

1. Did you **hear about** the new James bond film?
2. How did you **hear about** this job?
3. I **heard that** Mary is going to Paris - is it true?
4. Have you **heard about** the earthquake in Japan?
5. Have you **heard that** Peter and Jane have separated?

3) Hear from (somebody)

We use 'hear from' when we talk about communication from another person.

Examples:

1. Have you **heard from** John recently?
2. Hey! I **heard from** my brother yesterday. he is getting married!
3. I rarely **hear from** my son – he lives in Paris and he has a very busy life.

listen to music, hear a noise, hear about gossip, hear from John

Exercise: <https://www.englishclub.com/vocabulary/cw-hear-listen-quiz.htm>