

Savvy Skills for the Beginning Writer

How Listening Makes Us Better Writers

Three ways to increase your writerly listening skills:

1. Listen with your whole body and mind. Shut out the rest of the world and concentrate on the audible voice.
2. Listen with empathy. Put yourself in the speaker's shoes. What differences will this audible contribution make in your writing?
3. Listen with purpose. A writer's goal is to put themselves aside and write as the character.

Writer Exercise

1. Study the first scene in your story. Are you showing the story from the character's point of view or the writer?
2. Examine your character's personality. What ways does he/she speak differently, analyze, differently, process information, experience sensory perception, and face life? Those traits affect how the character communicates.
3. Rewrite all passages that don't reflect the character. You can do it!

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