

LISTENING SKILL Unit 4 p.93

Listening for Signal Words for Main Ideas

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University Lecture Pattern

University lectures often follow the pattern Professor Chandler uses:



Divide Information

Divide all the information into clear, organized parts.



Signal Words

Use a signal word to begin each new part (each part = a new main idea).

A good listener understands signal words — they help you know what kind of information comes next.

What Are Signal Words?

Signal words help listeners understand how lecture information is organized.

First

Second

Next

Then

Finally

Also

After a signal word:

- ▶ A new main idea is introduced
- ▶ Followed by supporting examples
- ▶ Signals a shift in topic



What other signal words do you know?

How to Listen for Signal Words

1

Notice Signal Words:

Try to notice signal words when listening to a lecture — they show how information is organized.

2

Expect a Main Idea:

After a signal word, a new main idea is coming. Prepare to write it down.

3

Listen for Examples:

After the main idea, examples and supporting details usually follow.

4

Build Your Outline: Use signal words to structure your notes with main ideas and supporting points.

Professor Chandler's Lecture - KK's Success



Question 1

Professor Chandler wants his students to understand that KK became successful because she did _____ important things.

Question 2 – How did Professor Chandler organize the information?

Signal Words

a. First

b. _____

c. _____

Main Ideas

a. KK had a creative idea.

b. _____

c. _____

Key Takeaways



Signal words mark the beginning of a new main idea in lectures.



Listen for: first, second, next, then, finally, also...



After each signal word → main idea → examples follow.



Use signal words to organize your notes effectively.