

Listening to discover

Ways to de-emphasise this type of listening:

There may be little reason or occasion to de-emphasise this form of listening, since it supplies vital and ongoing insight into what is happening and into others' perspectives, feelings and concerns. However, if you are seeking to do so, these tips may help.

1. Notice when further discovery is simply gratifying your own curiosity rather than providing potentially useful input for the discussion in hand.
2. Notice when you're the last person asking questions. That might be an indication either that you should stop for the time being or that you should make sure that any additional questions that you ask are highly focused and relevant.
3. Catch and correct yourself if you ask long, unclear or multiple questions. Collect your thoughts and reframe your question before proceeding.
4. Notice if your contribution to the interaction is all about your own exploring voices, and especially Inquiring and Probing.
5. Notice if and when the speaker (or other participants) seem to be becoming uncomfortable or impatient. Explain why you're asking so your question feels relevant and legitimate.