

Listening as a Field of Being

By Tony V. Zampella for **ACTO Conference**, June 7, 2018 tony@zampellagroup.com

With sufficient space, one listens, and therefore learns, in a state of attention, a state of silence in which this whole background is in abeyance; and then it seems to me, it is possible to communicate. —Jiddu Krishnamurti

WE WILL EXPLORE TOGETHER

This Workshop Supports these ICF Coaching Competencies:

Creating Awareness • Active Listening • Direct Communication Powerful Questions • Coaching Presence • Creating Trust & Intimacy

THROUGH THESE OBJECTIVES

- 1. Integrate Modes: Ontological Inquiry (Heidegger/Flores), Integral Theory (Wilber), and Contemplative Practice to create a *Meta-Context* for Listening.
- 2. Identify Mindsets and Levels of Awareness for Listening.
- 3. Clarify Practices to cultivate Interior Conditions for listening.
- 4. Clarify *Interior States* for a Field Listening.



Listening as a Field of Being

WE'LL EXPLORE MATERIAL IN FOUR PARTS

PART 1. FIRST-PERSON LEARNING: *Restoring Our Memory of The Whole*.

PART 2. WHAT IS LISTENING?

PART 3. CULTIVATING INTERIOR CONDITIONS

PART 4. FIELD OF BEING: Listening To Recover The Whole

Speaking Cannot Say What Listening is —TZ



PART 1. FIRST-PERSON LEARNING



Modes of Learning	Shallow WHAT?	Deep HOW?	Profound WHY?
Type (paradigm)	Empirical (Knowing)	Experiential (Doing)	Existential (Being)
Means	Memorization (Study)	Reflection (Discovery)	Intuition (Disclosing)
Modes (of understanding)	Research/Investigate Scientific Inquiry Rational/Epistemology	Praxis/Artistic Action Inquiry Experimentation	Phenomenological/ Ontological Inquiry Philosophic Insight
Outcomes	Information (Content)	Knowledge (Process)	Wisdom (Context)
Evidence	Replication	Understanding	Meaning-Making
Motivation	Extrinsic	Intrinsic	Moral (Intentional)
Attitudes (of learning)			Challenge
Relationships (view)	Dependence (Objective)	Independence (Subjective)	Interdependence (Intersubjective)
	Single-Loop THIRD-Person	Double-Loop SECOND-Person	Triple-Loop FIRST-Person



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How Learning Shapes Listening.

3rd PERSON

Study Knowledge via memorizing & reciting.

I understand through study, and focus on:

EMPIRICAL- Science
Listen for Content
CHANGE = Skillset

WHAT I know Aware of CONCEPT

2nd PERSON

Discover process & connect through Experience.

I understand through my participation, and focus on:

EXPERIENTIAL - Art
Listen for Connection
CHANGE = Team/Strategy

HOW I act Aware of **PHENOMENA**

1st PERSON

Disclose context through Challenging experiences.

I understand through being changed, and focus on:

EXISTENTIAL - Philosophy
Listen for Context
CHANGE = Mindset/Culture

WHO/WHY I am
Aware of POSSIBILITY



PART 1. FIRST-PERSON LEARNING



How Learning Shapes Listening.

3rd PERSON
Study Knowledge via memorizing & reciting.

I understand through study, and focus on:

EMPIRICAL
Aware of CONCEPT
CHANGE = Skillset

I study to learn how to RUN

2nd PERSON

Discover process & connect through Experience.

I understand through my participation, and focus on:

EXPERIENTIAL
Aware of PHENOMENA
CHANGE = Team/Strategy

I run to learn about RUNNING

1st PERSON

Disclose context through Challenging experiences.

I understand through being changed, and focus on:

EXISTENTIAL - Aware of CONTEXT/POSSIBILITY
CHANGE = Mindset/Culture

My running creates me as a RUNNER.



PART 2. WHAT IS LISTENING? LISTENING IS NOT A BLANK SLATE.



Mindsets disclose our

Level of Awareness,

focusing on concerns

from a Field of Being.



It can be said that when we listen we not only interpret the concern motivating the action, but we also make an interpretation of how what has been said affects our world of possibilities, that is, the future we are committed to. —Julio Olalla



PART 2. WHAT IS LISTENING?



Some of the researchers that examine a developmental line of human evolution.

- **Erickson**: psycho-social
- Graves/Beck: values
- Kegan: adult learning/development
- Kohlberg: moral
- Lovinger/Cook-Greuter: self-identity
- Maslow: needs

- Piaget: cognitive
- Scharmer/Senge: systems
- **Tobert**: action-logics
- Wigglesworth: SQ/Intuitive
- Wilber: Integral Theory

Some of the lines used to distinguish the levels of awareness and mindsets include:

- 1. psycho-social
- 2. kinesthetics/somatic
- 3. creative/aesthetics
- 4. ethics
- 5. Emotional/EQ

- 6. intuitive/SQ
- 7. cognitive
- 8. needs
- 9. action-logics
- 10. systems/existential



Levels of Awareness	Mindset		
Apprentice To Defend & Protect	1- Impulsive 2- Opportunist		
Professional/ Expert To Explain & Understand	3- Diplomat 4- Expert		
Executive/ Strategist To Predict & Express	5-Achiever/ Independent		
Master/ Learner To Expand & Include	6- Collaborative/ Interdependent		
Steward/ Creator To Become & Construct	7-Integral/ Whole		

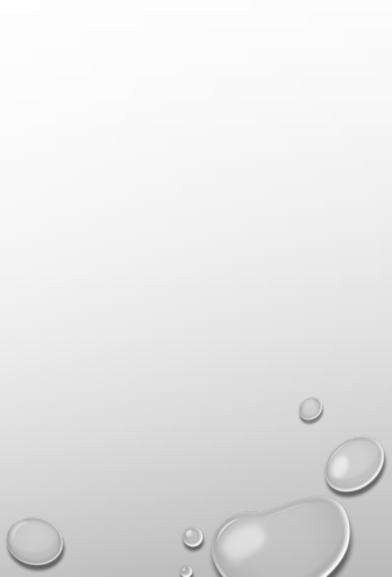
"Our philosophy is grounded in only half a language ... the power of discourse is deployed but the strength of listening is ignored.

We have a culture that knows how to speak but not how to listen; so we mistake warring monologues for genuine dialogue."

— Gemma Corradi Fiumara

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Levels of Awareness	Mindset Tensio		I Listen for
Apprentice To Defend & Protect	1- Impulsive 2- Opportunist	Impulses. Magical Thinking	The WINS. What I say to WIN.
Professional/ Expert To Explain & Understand	3- Diplomat 4- Expert	Traditional Beliefs/ Reason	The FACTS . Repeat and Verify What I hear.
Executive/ Strategist To Predict & Express	5-Achiever/ Independent	Knowledge/ Intention	The ACTION. Discover & Apply What I know.
Master/ Learner To Expand & Include	6- Collaborative/ Interdependent	Abstraction/ Ambiguity.	The MEANING. Create connection, mutual understanding.
Steward/ Creator To Become & Construct	7-Integral/ Whole	Blind spot/ Co-creator	The SPACE/FUTURE. To create context/possibility.



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Levels of Awareness	Mindset	Discover/ Master	Type/ Interactions	Gifts/ Feedback	
Apprentice	1- Impulsive	Reactive Self. Self-Control:	Transactional	Assert Self	
To Defend & Protect	2- Opportunist	warrior to guardian	Debate	Rejects Feedback	
Professional/ Expert	3- Diplomat	Logic-Evidence.	Active	Marshal Facts	
To Explain & Understand	4- Expert	Test beliefs and assumptions.	Listening Discussion	From trusted people/experts	
Executive/ Strategist	5-Achiever/	Action- Evidence.	Self-Expressed	Coordinate Action	
To Predict & Express	Independent	Engage and generate action	Conversation	Accepts from most people (often private)	
Master/ Learner	6- Collaborative/	Multiple Perspectives.	Dialogue	Inclusive Awareness	
To Expand & Include	Interdependent	Appreciate differences.	Discovery	Open to, asks for often	
Steward/ Creator	7-Integral/	Polarities. Reframe	Presence	Emerging Future	
To Become & Construct	Whole	contradictions and uncertainty.	Grant Being	Seeks out for growth	



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Levels of Awareness	Mindset Time/ Percent		Attention/ Focus	
Apprentice	1- Impulsive	Instant/	Control	
To Defend & Protect	2- Opportunist	15.5% /10.5%		
Professional/ Expert	3- Diplomat	Short View	Content	
To Explain & Understand	4- Expert	36.5% / 48%	Concepts	
Executive/ Strategist	5-Achiever/	Long View		
To Predict & Express	Independent	30% / 35%	Conditions	
			Concerns	
Master/ Learner	6- Collaborative/	Relative View (within lifetime)	Connections	
To Expand & Include	Interdependent	11% / 5%	Compassion	
Steward/ Creator	7-Integral/	Whole View (beyond lifetime)	Compassion	
To Become & Construct	Whole	7% / 1.5%	Creator/ Context	



Levels of Awareness	Mindset	Tensions	I Listen for	Discover/ Master	Type/ Interactions	Gifts/ Feedback	Time/ Percent	Attention/ Focus
Apprentice	1- Impulsive	Impulses.	The WINS.	Reactive Self. Self-Control:	Transactional	Assert Self	Instant/ immediate	Control
To Defend & Protect	2- Opportunist	Magical Thinking	What I say to WIN.	warrior to guardian	Debate	Rejects Feedback	15.5% /10.5%	
Professional/ Expert	3- Diplomat	Traditional	The FACTS.	Logic-Evidence.	Active	Marshal Facts	Short View	Content
To Explain & Understand	4- Expert	Beliefs/ Reason	Repeat and Verify What I hear.	Test beliefs and assumptions.	Listening Discussion	From trusted people/experts	36.5% / 48%	Concepts
Executive/ Strategist	5-Achiever/	Knowledge/	The ACTION.	Action- Evidence.	Self-Expressed	Coordinate Action	Long View	Consepts
To Predict & Express	Independent	Discover & Apply	Conversation	Accepts from most people (often private).	30% / 35%	Conditions		
Master/ Learner	6- Collaborative/	Abstraction/	The MEANING . Create connection,	Multiple Perspectives.	Dialogue	Inclusive Awareness	Relative View (within lifetime)	Connections
To Expand & Include	Interdependent	Ambiguity.	mutual understanding.	Appreciate differences.	Discovery	Open to, asks for often	11% / 5%	Compassion
Steward/ Creator	7-Integral/	Blind spot/	The SPACE/FUTURE.	Polarities. Reframe	Presence	Emerging Future	Whole View (beyond lifetime)	
To Become & Construct	Whole	Co-creator	To create context/possibility.	contradictions and uncertainty.	Grant Being	Seeks out for growth	7% / 1.5%	Creator/ Context

Part 3. CULTIVATING CONDITIONS FOR LISTENING



Specific Practices Cultivate *Listening by* **expanding nothingness to differentiate BEING**

Remember, Practice is what we do to be FAITHFUL not SUCCESSFUL.





Part 3. CULTIVATING CONDITIONS FOR LISTENING



Specific Practices Cultivate *Listening by* **expanding nothingness to differentiate BEING**

Remember, Practice is what we do to be FAITHFUL not SUCCESSFUL.

- 1. LEARNING To Observe
- 2. Practice "Coming Back"
- 3. LEARNING To "Not Know"
- 4. Practice ResistanceTolerance/Training
- 5. LEARNING To Dissolve the "Problem" Paradigm

- 6. Practice Acceptance
- 7. LEARNING Radical Openness
- 8. LEARNING To "Be With" Possibility.
- 9. Practice Granting Being

1. Learning to Observe.



Observe events around us.

• The rain falling, the dog barking, and garbage truck driving by.

Observe our direct perception/experience of events.

• It's raining and I am wet; the dog barking is loud; the unpleasant smell of the garbage truck.

Observe our internal state.

• I notice disappointment that it's raining, I am delighted to see the dog, the garbage truck reminds me I forgot to put out my garbage and feel anger arising.

Observe our listening.

• A stranger asks for directions. I pause and ask her to repeat the question. In a split second, I notice my listening. I set aside arising anger, disappointment, and delight. I now pay attention to the question.

2. Practice "Coming Back" (to present).

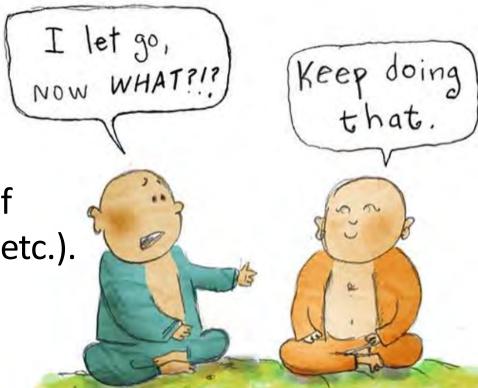


FOCUS: the span of attention \rightarrow *staying present*

CONCENTRATION: the depth of attention \rightarrow *staying grounded*

- **Focus the mind** on a single object to the exclusion of other objects to foster concentration, or a "one-pointed" mode of mental function.
- Refrain from giving attention to distracting thoughts or sensations that arise.
- Gently return awareness to the primary object of experience (the breath, a word or conversation, etc.).

"Your worst enemy cannot harm you as much as your own unguarded thoughts." —The Buddha



3. Learning To "Not Know"



- 1. Be willing to move beyond what we already know.
- 2. Let go of the need to know, to prove, or to explain. We become unrecognizable to ourselves to allow for unexpected discoveries.
 - 3. Avoid turning something new into something known. This reduces "differences" to similarities.
 - 4. Dissolve fixed views to increase capacity for "unlearning."
 - ✓ Knowledge seeks certainty, which is fixed and predictable.
 - ■Listens through knowledge for answers tuned into cognition (our head).
 - ✓ Wisdom embraces uncertainty with humility by questioning knowledge.
 - Listens with intention for possibilities, questions tuned into breath/body (neck-down).

There is a difference between knowing the path & walking the path. — Morpheus, THE MATRIX.



4. Practice Resistance Tolerance/Training

- BE WILLING to set aside your point of view; drop any assumptions and expectations.
- BE CLEAR on your intention; what you care about in this conversation (beyond agenda).
- BE OPEN to observing how you resist. During the communication, notice any resistance to what's being said.
 - ✓ Inquire: what it is they want to say that I don't want to hear? Then, pause and breathe, and be where they are in the conversation.
- BE COMMITTED to get another's full communication.
 - ✓ <u>Inquire</u>: am I willing to stay in the conversation until I get someone's *full* communication? (Is there anything else to say?)



What You Resist, Persists - C. Jung.

5. Learning to Dissolve the "Problem" Paradigm

PROBLEM PARADIGM: Observing problems through a normative lens, we diagnose and solve.

- ✓ We observe what works, what's wrong, and how to fix it.
- ✓ Normative ideals precede problems that should not exist, so we listen for prescriptions.

POSSIBILITY PARADIGM: Observing problems from ontological perspective into the nature of being, (or an existential lens).

- ✓ We observe what's missing or essential for a declared possibility.
- ✓ Freedom precedes problems, which are inevitable and universal, so we listen for possibilities.

If all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail. —Maslow.



6. Practice Acceptance

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- 1- Let things arise: mindfulness meditation places <u>non-reactive</u> <u>awareness</u>, moving from object to object, as stimuli present themselves in experience (complement of *concentration*).
- 2- Accept others as legitimate beings. We accept all different views as valid parts of an emerging coherent truth.
- 3- Embrace self-acceptance (self-compassion). We acknowledge "self," as a point of view, that unifies the flow of experience into a coherent narrative (Senge).

Practice this Mantra:

- ►I am enough.
- >This is enough.
- > This moment is enough.
- > I accept this moment as it is.

7. Learning Radical Openness



- Observe through the layers of "concepts" that represent experiences; and "beliefs" about those concepts, both of which we forget we made up to explain reality.
 - Observe meaning: Begin dissolving expectations, assumptions and differences notice what questions or thoughts emerge.
 - **Dissolve identity** and disclose "self" as a point of view no longer separating us from others.
 - Observe what shows itself: Notice what emerges in the way others recreate you (bring you into being).
 - Observe opposites making wholes: the arising of polarities, possibility, or potential.

8. Learning to "be with" possibility



We can now "be with" what we do not understand, what we do not want to hear. We can stay with things (dwell in ideas) to see through them – to **BE WITH** other views and beings as valid.

- Experience empty attention to <u>expand awareness</u>;
- Clear perception to <u>view openly</u>; and,
- **Direct presence** to <u>experience emerging holon</u>s (partial & whole).

We become the listening (space) for others to sort themselves out in language.

Everyone in a complex system has a slightly different interpretation. The more interpretations we gather, the easier it becomes to gain a sense of the whole. —Margaret Wheatley

9. Practice Granting Being



Being gotten. We begin to receive and accept all points of views to presence a fuller view, or coherent truth.

 People want to know that they've been heard, that we get them, viscerally, beyond any forms.

Granting being. In allowing to be, we presence what we can acknowledge.

- We recreate all points of view that come into presence as arising (belonging) in our listening.
- We can be here with another exactly as they are nothing added, or taken away from their experience.

There is a clearing... only this clearing grants and guarantees to us humans a passage to those beings that we ourselves are not, and access to the being that we ourselves are. —Martin Heidegger

PART 3. CULTIVATING CONDITIONS FOR LISTENING



NOW reflect on these Nine Practices & Learnings.

- 1. LEARNING To Observe
- 2. Practice "Coming Back"
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If we are to live in harmony with ourselves ... we need to be able to communicate freely in a creative movement in which no one permanently holds onto or otherwise defends his own ideas. — David Bohm



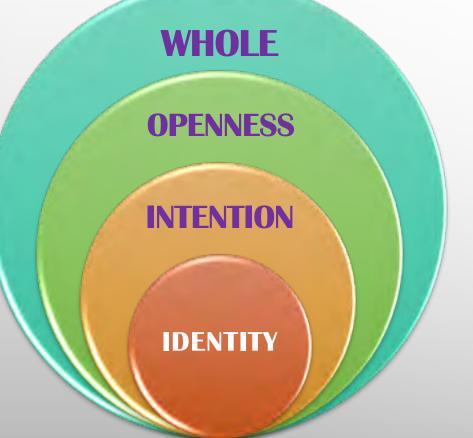
PART 4. FIELD OF BEING: LISTENING TO RECOVER THE WHOLE



INTENTION: <u>AWAKEN</u> THE FIELD.

OPENNESS: <u>DEEPEN</u> THE FIELD.

WHOLE: EMBODY THE FIELD.



WHOLE EMBODY Transcend Fragmented Self

INTENTION
AWAKEN
Interrupt
Reactive Self



INTENTION: AWAKEN THE FIELD.



- Intention (WHY) grounds attention (WHAT) to grow and cultivate space between *projections* (self-perception) and *forms* (self-conceptions). *Intention manifests as:*
 - ✓ Distinguish between *intentions*, *expectations* and *impact*.
 - ✓ Accurately reproduce communications, requests, and conditions of satisfaction.

Intention interrupts our reflexive or reactive state:

- ✓ We slow to presence and cultivate space for choosing.
- ✓ Choice emerges first between opinion and action; then between observation and opinion.
- >OUTCOME: INTERRUPT THE REACTIVE SELF
- ➤ PRACTICES: 1-4

OPENNESS: DEEPEN THE FIELD

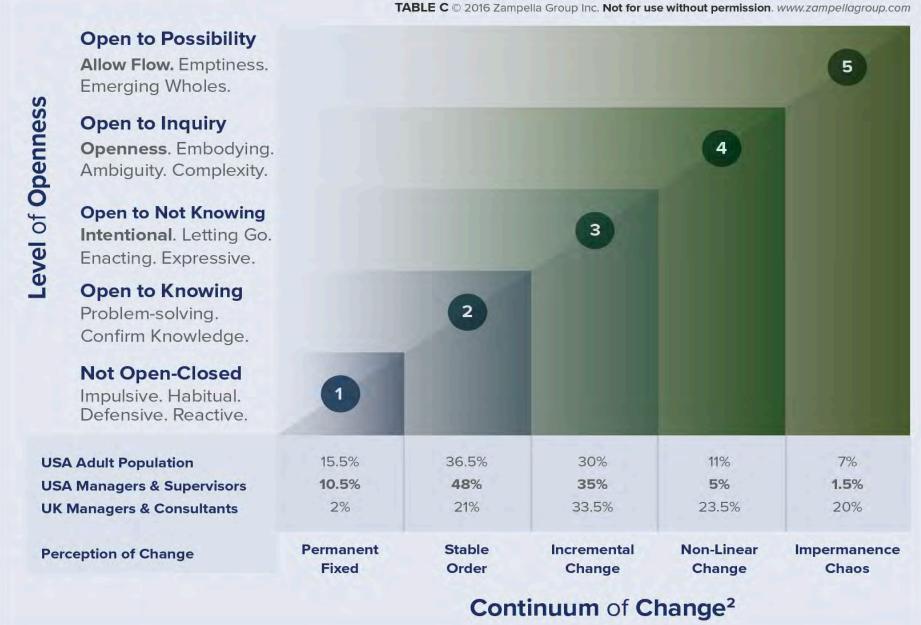


We distinguish "either/or" binary thinking and seek out "both/and" inquiries.

- *Openness grants space* (emptiness) for future as potential to emerge.
- *Emptiness cultivates freedom* through impermanence letting forms emerge and pass.
- **Stillness** and **silence** cultivate a fluid self (POV) that acknowledges and allows *contradictions*, and *polarities* to arise in *non-reactive awareness* without being resolved.
- >OUTCOME: TRANSCEND THE COMPETITIVE SELF
- ➤ PRACTICES: 5 7

LEVEL OF OPENNESS TO CHANGE





WHOLE: EMBODY THE FIELD



- Our *intention* and *openness* allows for presencing a Field. We witness all forms and dissolve binary thoughts into unfolding wholes:
 - ✓ Each discovery *unfolds* into *greater meaning*.
 - ✓ Each fragment *unfolds* into a *larger whole*
 - ✓ Each interpretation *unfolds* into *deeper understanding*.
 - ✓ Each fact *unfolds* into a *fuller truth*.
 - We begin to see parts of you in me and parts of me in you, emerging as common humanity.
 - >OUTCOME: TRANSCEND THE FRAGMENTED SELF
 - ➤ PRACTICES: 8 9

In the midst of beings as a whole, an open place occurs. —Martin Heidegger

LISTENING AS FIELD OF BEING: TO RECOVER THE WHOLE

ALL WE WANT IS TO BE HEARD.

More than compensation, agreement or inspiration, human beings want the *experience* of *being heard*.

It's time to create a *full curriculum* that addresses and fulfills this deep need.



RESOURCES

Contact info@zampellagroup.com For the LISTENING PACKET:

include slides, resources, and to become part of our community of learners with whom we share resources and practices.



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