Understanding lectures in English

You Need to Identify …

- What is being said
- Its meaning
- Its importance

Some strategies to help you …

1. Improve your ability to understand NZ English:
   - accent
   - idiom
   - background information

2. Use your own knowledge of the subject:
   - by prior reading
   - by discussing the topic before and/or after the lecture

3. Listen for the lecturer’s overview at the beginning of the lecture

4. Listen for instructions from the lecturer

5. Listen for the lecturer’s organizational clues

6. Listen for voice emphasis
Use these organisational clues to help you

- **To introduce the topic**
  Today I plan to...
The topic I want to discuss....

- **To introduce a series of points**
  There are (one/two/several...) (causes/factors/...)

- **To list points**
  First/ next/ then/ another/ finally/ the next....

- **To emphasize an important point**
  The central problem... I want to stress that...
  It’s important to note that... Clearly...

- **To add further information or develop an idea**
  In addition... Moreover...
  Similarly...

- **To rephrase a point**
  In other words...
  To put that another way...

- **In contrast**
  However... In contrast...
  On the other hand... Although...

- **To show a cause and effect or results**
  Therefore... Consequently...
  As a result...

- **To begin a new section of the lecture**
  I’d like to move on to...
  Let’s look at...now

- **To digress**
  Incidentally...
  If I may digress for a moment...

- **To summarise or conclude**
  To sum up... In short...
  In brief... We’ve seen...