

Attentiveness

Showing the worth of a person or task by giving my undivided concentration

Five Keys:

Look at people
when they speak

Learn to listen

Ask when unsure

Align your spine

Avoid distractions

What is Attentiveness?

Ignoring someone shows disrespect for the individual and robs you of the chance to learn something. Pay attention to your teachers, parents, coaches, and mentors.

Do yourself a favor by getting serious about school and doing your best. Listen carefully, ask questions, and concentrate on your work. Learn as much as you can while you have the opportunity.

Attentiveness Introduction

What Do You See?

A microscope helps you see details, and attentiveness helps you focus on the most important people and projects.

Sit up straight in class, look at the speaker, think about what he or she is saying, and be quiet so that others can hear. These habits show respect and help you to learn.

The next time you are tempted to use your phone or talk in class, remember the lesson of attentiveness and do what is right.



Get the most from your education by attending class and doing your best.

Five Keys to Attentiveness

1

Look at People When They Speak

A person's body language and facial expressions can say a lot. When someone speaks to you, stop what you are doing, and give him or her your undivided attention.

2

Learn to Listen

Make listening a priority. Do not finish others' sentences or cut others off. Visualize what the other person is saying. Take notes, ignore distractions, and try to understand.

3

Ask When Unsure

Nod and make eye contact in order to communicate you understand. If you don't understand, respectfully ask, "Can you say that again?" or "Is this what you mean?"

4

Align Your Spine

Good posture increases your alertness, promotes physical health, and shows respect to the person speaking. Sit up straight in class, especially when you are tired. When you stand, avoid shifting your weight around.

5

Avoid Distractions

When someone enters the room during class, quickly turn back to the speaker. Do not make noise, scoot your chair, talk on the phone, or cause other distractions. Sit where you will not be distracted by others.

Think about it

After reading this lesson, discuss the following questions with a parent, guardian, or teacher who can sign below.

1. Why is attentiveness important for success?
2. How do you feel when the person you talk to does not remove his or her earphones?

Signature & Date _____



Attentiveness in History

Lewis H. Latimer
Lewis H. Latimer 1848-1928

Humble Beginnings

In the summer of 1865, seventeen-year-old Lewis Latimer began working for Crosby & Gould as an errand boy. Crosby & Gould specialized in drafting patent drawings and legal descriptions for inventors.

Attentiveness at Work

Latimer carefully observed the draftsmen, their tools, and their methods. He purchased a used drafting set and began to practice drawing at night.

Latimer asked the head draftsman for permission to make some drawings. After his initial laughter, the boss gave Latimer a project. Eventually, Latimer became head draftsman.

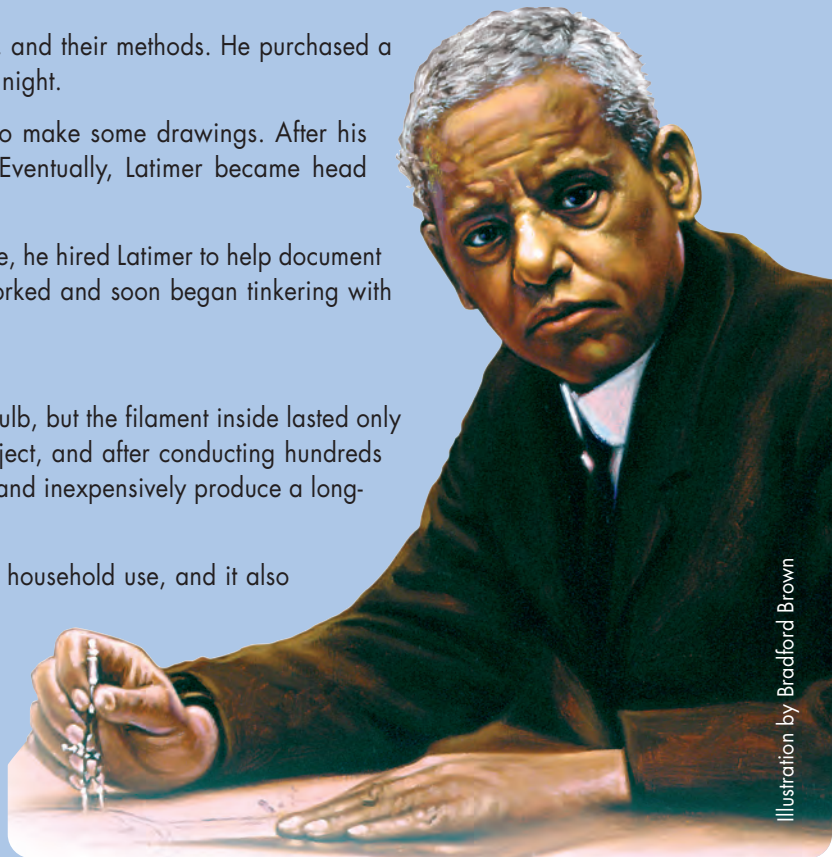
When Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone, he hired Latimer to help document the invention. Latimer studied how the telephone worked and soon began tinkering with his own inventions.

Rewards of Attentiveness

In 1878, Thomas Edison patented the electric light bulb, but the filament inside lasted only a few days. Latimer applied himself to this new project, and after conducting hundreds of experiments, he finally discovered how to simply and inexpensively produce a long-lasting filament.

Latimer's discovery made the light bulb practical for household use, and it also brought him to Thomas Edison's attention.

Edison hired him, and Latimer became a significant member of the "Edison Pioneers." Through his attention to detail, diligent work, and creative thinking, Lewis Latimer became one of the foremost authorities on electric lighting.



Lewis Latimer's contribution helped make the electric light bulb reliable and affordable.

Get it?

Take school, work, and relationships seriously.

- Learn from those who are skilled.
- Read many kinds of books.
- Think about what you read, hear, and watch.
- Take notes in class.
- Pay attention to details.
- Ask questions in order to clarify what others say. Don't pretend to understand.

Attentiveness Application

Classroom Manners



Show respect to your teachers by demonstrating good manners:

- Greet teachers respectfully. Say, "Good morning," or "Good afternoon."
- Talk to friends between classes rather than during class.
- Do not draw attention away from the teacher.
- Get enough rest so that you can stay awake in class.
- Do not use alcohol or other drugs that cloud your thinking.
- Stay until the teacher dismisses you.
- Say "thank you" as you leave class.

Costly Mistakes

NASA reported the Mars Climate Orbiter crashed in 1999 because of human failure to translate English measurements into metric units. Overlooking this small detail cost \$125 million.

Personal Relationships

Your inattentiveness to a friend or family member can have a similarly devastating effect on your relationship.

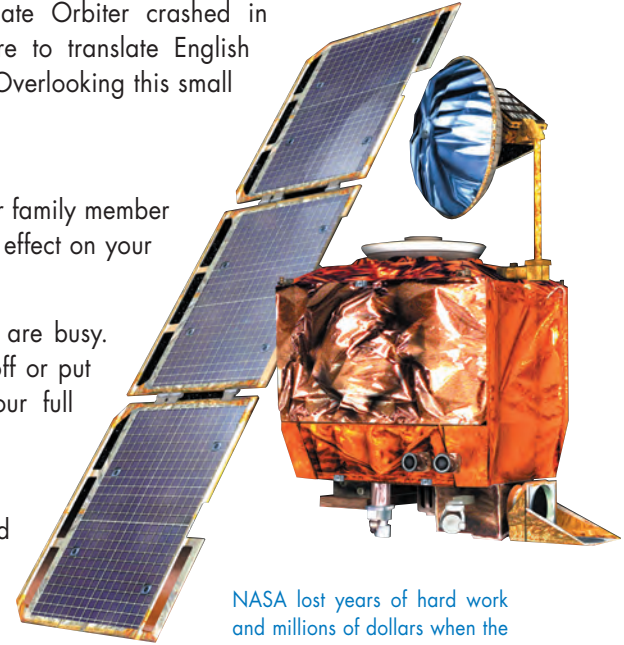
Listen to others, even when you are busy. Stop what you are doing, turn off or put away distractions, and give your full attention.

Future Success

If you ignore your parents and teachers, you will lack the skills, knowledge, and character qualities you need in order to succeed later in life.

Get serious about school so that you can excel at whatever you do. Don't be afraid to ask for help in subjects you don't understand.

Pay attention—and avoid making costly mistakes.



NASA lost years of hard work and millions of dollars when the Mars Climate Orbiter crashed due to human error.



Think about it

After reading this lesson, discuss the following questions with a parent, guardian, or teacher who can sign below.

1. Review the list of classroom manners. How else can you show respect to your teachers?
2. How does listening to others build relationships?
3. How does attentiveness prepare you for the future?
4. Besides money, what is the cost of alcohol and other drugs?

Signature & Date _____



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