**Say What?**

**Space requirements:** Classroom/activity room

**Equipment:** None

**Group size:** Group of 4 to 10 participants

**Alternative:** This can be done as to increase communication skills as well. This is a great facilitator training activity for thinking on your feet. When you lack confidence in a group setting or at an IEP meeting this can prepare on how to handle those situations.

**Accessibility:** You may want to write the words on the board so everyone can access the word even if it might be hard to understand.

**Program goal(s):**

1. Participants will learn that listening is very important.
2. They will also learn that sometimes people may need accommodations in order to communicate effectively.

**Program description:**

**Preparation:** None

**Instructions:**

Break group up into partners. Have them select who is partner one and who is partner two. They will have to talk about a word for thirty seconds and the other partner has to listen for thirty seconds without talking. Give partner one a word they have heard before (i.e.: shoes), have partner one talk about this word for thirty seconds. Give partner two a word they have heard before (i.e.: socks), have partner two talk about this word for thirty seconds as well. Then have partner one talk about a made up word for thirty seconds. Give partner two a made up word to talk about for thirty seconds.

After exercise is complete go through and ask each partner what the other said about their word. Ask the partners if it was correct or if anything was left out or added.

This activity shows how we may not hear everything that is being said and that things can distract us in how we hear. How we may only catch a part of the conversation and not all. In order to communicate effectively we have to not only talk effectively we also have to listen intensely.

Have them discuss what they felt like with the different words, how their bodies reacted. What were their thoughts like? After they went were they still concerned with what they just said rather than listening to the partner?