Participant # 1

When I was a junior high school student, I took notes while listening for the first time. Before playing the content of listening passages, our teacher asked us to take out a piece of paper and told us to jot down whatever we heard. At that time, I almost took down nothing. Although I tried to write down what I heard as much as possible, I encountered great difficulties in taking notes because of a lot of unfamiliar vocabularies. After listening, I read my notes, and I couldn’t get any clues, so I felt quite frustrated because my note didn’t help me a lot. Now I still keep this habit. No matter when I take notes, I jot down the words or phrases which I am familiar with. Although there are only some words or phrases, it still can help me remember the content easily; besides, I will pay more attention to listening because I am afraid that I distract from my listening, and I have nothing to write down. In my opinion, while listening, there are too many vocabularies which I can not understand so that I have nothing to write down. Therefore, lack of vocabulary capacity is the main barrier for me to take notes effectively while listening. On the contrary, I usually jot down the key words and phrases, and it won’t take me too much time; therefore, note-taking won’t distract me from my listening instead of I can concentrate on my listening by taking notes because I am afraid of missing the important parts. Note-taking is the best way for me to train myself to concentrate on my listening and refresh my memory.

Participant # 2

My first time experience of note-taking was last year. In the very beginning of our listening comprehension class, our teacher suggested that we should take notes. As a matter of fact, I didn’t have such kind of experience so that I felt very nervous. I tried to write down something, but I failed. After listening, there were no more than ten words on my note; therefore, I was disappointed that my note couldn’t help me at all. Due to my friend’s encouragement, I took her advise so that I concentrated on listening, and I wrote down whatever I heard as much as possible. Although I couldn’t improve myself a lot for the second time, at least I was absorbed in listening. After I took notes several times, I found that the more I paid attention to, the more information I could hear. Till now, I still keep this habit because I believe that practice makes perfect. When I take notes, I usually write down key words, so it won’t take me too much time and distract me from listening. Based on my experiences, lack of vocabulary capacity is the biggest problem for me to take notes effectively. However, by reading my notes, I can have a clear picture of the listening passages. Thus, taking notes not only help me concentrate on my listening but help me remember the content of listening passage
easily. In conclusion, I could improve my listening comprehension by taking notes.

Participant #3
When I was [pause] a sophomore, I took notes while listening for the first time. The reason why I wanted to take notes was that our teacher would ask us [think] some questions related to the listening passages. In the beginning, I thought that the more information I jotted down, the more clues I could get…, so I tried to write down the whole sentence I heard. After I wrote down one complete sentence, I found [pause] that I missed two or three sentences [laugh]; thus, I changed my mind to jot down the key words because it could save me much time, and I could [pause] concentrate. Until now, I still take notes while listening. Every time I take note, I just write down the key words in case of missing more important parts. As long as I take notes, I will pay more attention. I usually use my notes to help me to recall my memory because some listening passages are quite long, if I don’t take down some keywords, I will forget the content easily. In my point of view, [think] writing down the whole sentence is a waste of time, but taking down the key words is not. I always jot down key words, so it won’t take me too much time to concentrate on listening. Besides, the function of my notes is like a reminder because I can remember the content of the listening passages easily by reading my notes [pause]. Due to remembering the content, I could answer my teacher’s questions easily. As a result, note-taking is not a bad way for me to improve my listening comprehension.

Participant #4
Two years ago, I took foreign teacher’s listening comprehension class. One day [think for a while], before our teacher played the listening passages, I saw my classmate took out one piece of paper and one pencil. [laugh] Due to curiosity, I asked her why…, she put one piece of paper and one pencil on the desk. After her explanation, I understood that [pause] she would take notes when she listened because that was a good way for her to remember the content easily. Therefore, I followed the example of her. During the process of listening [think], I paid more attention, and I wrote down some important vocabularies. Even though there were still some vocabularies I didn’t know, those unfamiliar vocabularies had no influence on my overall understanding of the listening passages. Till now [pause], every time I listen, I must take notes because my listening comprehension would improve by taking notes based on my experiences. I usually jot down [think] the important key works and phrases while listening. These key words and phrases can help me reconstruct my memory. If I do not take down those important words, I will forget the content easily. In addition, [think about five seconds] taking notes can make me concentrate on listening. As a result, note-taking can help me improve my listening
comprehension.

Participant # 5

Last year our teacher asked us to take notes while listening. After catching [pause] the key words, I could not write down those vocabularies correctly right away so that I spent a lot of time thinking about how to spell those words correctly. I spent too much time in taking notes, so I missed some important parts. In addition [think], if there are too many [pause] unfamiliar vocabularies in the listening passages, I will feel nervous, and I wanted to escape from the horrible situation. As far as I am concerned, note-taking has more disadvantages than advantages. As for the disadvantages, I need to spend much time in taking notes when I listen to the passages so that [pause] I can not effectively capture each point. What’s more, I always [think] encounter many unfamiliar vocabularies while listening so that I can not write down the correct vocabularies immediately [pause]. After listening, I can’t get enough information related to the listening passages; therefore, lack of vocabulary capacity is a big problem for me to take notes effectively. Moreover, it is difficult for me to take notes and listen to the passages at the same time. That’s because if I pay attention to listening, I will forget to take notes. However, during the process of note-taking [think for a while], I would pay more attention on listening because of catching those important vocabularies and phrases, so I can remember the content easily.

Participant # 6

Last year [pause], that was my first time to take notes when I listened to the passages [laugh]. Our teacher asked each of us to jot down anything which could help us answer questions easily. Due to inexperience [pause], I felt nervous, and I was afraid that [think] I could not do a good job. At that time, I almost focused on listening so that I wrote down just…a little information. Even though I was disappointed at the results, I still consoled myself that as long as I tried it again and again, I would improve. Therefore, I did not give up this approach. After the whole year training, I found [think] that note-taking strategy could promote my listening comprehension gradually. Until now, I must take notes no matter when I have listening comprehension class. Even though our teacher doesn’t ask us to take notes, I certainly take out pen and paper before she play the listening passages. During the process of taking notes [think for a while], I usually jot down some vocabularies and phrases to save time so that I can pay more attention to listening. In order to catch the main point easily, I dare not distract from my listening. Every time [pause] I listen to the passages, I am just absorbed in listening. In my opinion, note-taking is really a good way for me to improve my listening comprehension. That’s because I not only catch the main point easily but also remember the content easily.
Participant # 7

Due to inexperience, I almost wrote down nothing for the first time. I had no idea what I should jot down, so I just kept listening. Of course [laugh] I could not get any clues from my notes after listening. Now I major in English, so I have to take listening comprehension classes, and I have formed the habit of taking notes while listening because of my classmates’ suggestions. No matter when I take notes, I usually jot down vocabularies, phrases, and even the whole sentences. In my point of view, note-taking has some advantages. In the beginning, those vocabularies and phrases which I take down could help me recall my memory easily. Based on my own experiences, I could understand the content of the listening passages around 70 or 80 percent by reading my notes twice. Secondly, by taking notes, I could catch the main point easily. Thirdly, I can continuously review the vocabularies which I am unfamiliar with so that I can expand my vocabulary capacity. Fourthly, I can concentrate on listening. On the contrary, note-taking has one disadvantage. If there are too many difficult vocabularies in the listening passages, I can not take notes effectively.

 Participant # 8

My first time experience of taking notes was several years ago, so I could not remember the whole process clearly. At that time, I just took our teacher’s advice to take down no matter what I heard. Now I am still not interested in taking notes while listening because I am not proficient in listening, not to mention taking down the key words. Although I don’t like this approach, I can not help but take notes while listening because of our teacher’s request. During the process of taking notes, I usually focus on listening, and I sometimes jot down some vocabularies to save time so that I won’t distract myself from listening. I usually don’t spend a lot of time in taking notes because I think that it is a waste of time. As my level, it is not appropriate for me to take notes while listening. In my point of view, note-taking strategy has two disadvantages. First of all, no matter when I take notes, I feel frustrated because there are too many vocabularies which I can’t understand; therefore, lack of vocabulary capacity is the main difficulty for me to take notes effectively. In addition, I would lose my confidence. That’s because I could not take good notes and effectively listen to the listening passages simultaneously, so I can’t improve my listening comprehension by taking notes.
Participant # 9

[think] Five years ago, when I was a senior high school student, I was involved in a listening comprehension class, and that was my first time to take notes while listening. The reason why I took notes while listening was that [pause] our teacher wanted us to have a clear picture of the listening passages. After listening, I found out that [pause] lack of vocabulary capacity was the main difficulty that faced me. Now I am a student of English Department. It is easier for me to take notes than before because [think] I learn English everyday and I expand my vocabulary capacity everyday. I always write down the key words while listening. After listening [think for a while], I will generalize the main idea from a collection of those key words. As long as I understand the main idea of the listening passages, I can figure out the content easily. As far as I am concerned, [pause] I can improve my listening comprehension by taking notes. First of all, my notes can help me remember the whole content easily. If I don’t take down the key words or phrases, I will forget the content easily. As for my notes, in order to save time, I only take down the key words; therefore, taking notes won’t distract me from listening. Secondly, I can generalize the main idea of the listening passages by reviewing my notes several times. As long as I know the main idea is, I can comprehend the whole content easily. Thirdly [think about two seconds], I can pay attention on listening.

Participant # 10

[think] Three years ago, that was my first time to take notes while listening because of [pause] our teacher's request. Due to almost writing down nothing, I could not get any clues from my notes, not mention [pause] to answer our teacher's questions by looking at my notes. Now I always take notes while listening. I usually listen first. If the passage [think for a while] is not so difficult, I will quickly jot down [pause] the important information. If I can not understand the first five sentences, I will pay all attention on listening; then, I will jot down the key words. I will not spend too much time in taking notes because I am afraid of miss a lot of important information, so taking notes will not distract me from listening. Therefore, my notes really help me a lot. I can reconstruct me memory by reading my notes after listening. As long as I can remember the content of the listening passage, I think that it is quite easy for me to comprehend the content. What’s more, as long as I take notes while listening, I will pay a lot of attention so that I can catch the important information easily. On the other hand, if the listening passage is quite difficult for me, I will not take notes effectively because of a lot of unfamiliar vocabularies.
Participant #11

I could not remember clearly my first time experience of taking notes, and I could not remember [pause] what happened at that time, either. However [think], now I have listening comprehension courses so that I have to take some notes when I listen to the listening passages because of our teacher’s request. Although I know that the more information I take down, the more clues I can obtain. However, now it is still difficult for me to take good notes while listening. The reason why [pause] I can’t take notes effectively is that I usually miss a lot of important information related to [pause] listening passages while taking notes because I always spend a lot of time in taking notes. Therefore, I just quickly jot down few vocabularies during the process of taking notes. In my point of view, I can not benefit a lot form the process of taking notes. [think] There are two main reasons why I can not benefit a lot from note-taking strategy. First of all, I can not give considerations to two or more things at the same time so that note-taking strategy can not effectively help me improve my listening comprehension. Secondly, there are a lot of vocabularies which I can not understand so that I can’t take notes effectively. On the contrary, the only advantage of taking notes for me is to make me listening carefully. No matter when I take notes, I can not help but pay all my attention on listening.

Participant #12

Two years ago [pause], when I was a freshman, I took notes for the first time. At that time [think], I was not good at taking notes because of inexperience. Based on my own experiences [think], note-taking strategy can help me promote my listening comprehension gradually. Every time [pause] I take notes, I always pay a lot of attention to listening because I am afraid that I will miss the important information. Of course [laugh] I usually use my notes to [pause] refresh my memory. By reading the notes [think], I can have a clear picture of the listening passages, and I really can remember the content of listening passages easily. If I don’t take down those [pause] important information while listening, I will forget [think] the content of listening passages easily. On the other hand, while listening, I sometimes [consider] face the problem of a lot of vocabularies which I can not understand. Maybe the listening passages are too difficult for me; therefore, I even can not jot down the key words, the important phrases and sentences. If there are a lot of unfamiliar vocabularies in the listening passages, I can not take notes effectively, not mention to improve my listening comprehension by taking notes. What’s more [think for a while], if there are too many difficult words in the listening passages, it will take me a lot of time thinking how to write down the words correctly.
Participant # 13
My first time experience of taking notes while listening was last year. The reason why I took notes while listening was that our teacher suggested that we should jot down whatever we heard so that we could remember the listening passages easily. Till now, I never give up this strategy. When I take notes, I usually jot down the key words because those key words can help me remember the content easily. I always jot down the key words instead of the whole sentence, so it won’t take me a lot of time taking down those key words, so taking notes will not distract me from listening; however, I will pay more attention to listening because I am afraid of missing those key words. However, not each listening passage fit my level based on my own experiences. I sometimes encounter many difficult vocabularies when I listen to the listening passages. As long as there are too many difficult vocabularies in the listening passages, it is quite hard for me to take notes effectively. I have ever wrote down the wrong information because I thought that I have already took down the key words, but actually I just jotted down the less important information. The wrong information led me to the wrong direction. As a result, the unfamiliar vocabularies not only take me a lot of time but also lead me to the wrong direction.

Participant # 14
Several years ago, that was my first time to take notes while listening. The reason why I took notes when I listened to the listening passages was that our teacher said that we could have a clear picture as long as we jotted down important information. Now I am a student of English Department, so that I use note-taking strategy no matter when I have listening comprehension courses. During the process of note-taking, I always write down the key words and phrases, so I spend less time in taking notes while listening; therefore, taking notes won’t distract me from listening. However, I will pay more attention to listening. As far as I am concerned, the more keywords I write down, the more information I can get. Moreover, as soon as I jotted down enough information, I can have a clear picture about the listening passages; therefore, I can catch the main points easily and reconstruct the whole content easily. As a result, I can benefit greatly by taking notes because note-taking not only help me concentrate on listening but also get a clear picture easily. As for the disadvantage, I sometimes face some difficult vocabularies and phrases so that I can not jot down those words on my notes, not mention to get the extra information from my notes; therefore, lack of vocabularies is the main problem for me to take notes effectively.
Participant #15

When I was a senior high school student, I took notes while listening for the first time. Because of our teacher’s request, we could not help but take down no matter what we heard. Though I tried my best to write down everything which was quite important; I could not keep up with the speed of the listening passages; Therefore, there were just a little information on my notes after listening, so I felt very frustrated. Till now, I still keep this habit because I major in English now. I find out that taking notes is not a bad way for me to concentrate on my listening. Every time [think] I listen to the passages, I must take notes because my listening comprehension would improve by taking notes based on my previous experiences. In my point of view, while listening, in sometime passages, there are too many vocabularies which I can not understand so that I have nothing to write down. Therefore, lack of vocabulary capacity is the main barrier for me to take notes effectively while listening. On the contrary, note-taking has some advantages. First of all, I can train myself pay more attention to the listening passages because I am afraid that I will miss the important information. In addition, [pause] my own notes can help me [pause] remember the content easily, so I can catch the main points easily.