

Learn to Listen

When I was a young guy in college I had a lot to learn. Not just about the subjects I was studying, but many other things too.

During one of my classes the professor asked a question to which I had the perfect answer! So, up shot my hand. I was ready to impart my wisdom to everyone. He called on several other students before me, so I waited patiently for my turn. When he finally called on me I proudly blurted out my answer. Then the professor asked, "Isn't that what she just said?" pointing to one of the other students.

How embarrassing! I hadn't been listening to any of the other answers and everybody knew it!

That lesson was reinforced with a lot of emotion, and it was burned into my brain somewhere. So, today I try to listen first and speak later. Even in casual conversation I try to listen to what the other person is saying before I formulate my response. Embarrassment is a strong motivator for insecure people like me!