

Clip:ap_clip6: Your full attention please!

DS262/04

Eleanor Morris: OK

Lynton Howell-Hughes: Tony from Lynton...

Eleanor Morris: Right, we're going to record then, maybe, OK?

Lynton Howell-Hughes: ... very quiet in the studio this time please.

Eleanor Morris: Let's start again.

Hilary Harrison: Clock on one minute.

Tony Ravenscraig: 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3

Hilary Harrison: 2, 1, zero.

Eleanor Morris: Cue David.

David Hiles: Are you fully attending to this programme?...

Hilary Harrison: Shot 1, VT next.

David Hiles: or are you half listening to what's going on in the next room? How many things can you attend to at once? Is it automatic now to drive your car and talk to your companion? Remember, when you were learning to drive, that would have been impossible. We ask in this programme...

Hilary Harrison: Standby VT.

David Hiles: ... is attention an acquired skill or is it an automatic

Hilary Harrison: Thank you.

David Hiles: mechanism that simply blocks out unwanted material. Can people learn to divide their attention between several things going on at once?

For a moment, think about the problems of attention faced by me presenting this programme. I've never been involved in making a television programme before and I'm finding it difficult to attend to everything that's going on...

Hilary Harrison: Run VT – 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1,

David Hiles: around me. Yet the experienced staff seem to be able to cope with this very well. They can extract the information meant for them and ignore the rest.