Phone Conversations Lesson Template

What’s the Big Idea?
(For use as a general listening lesson)

Preparation
Gather authentic Internet or personal/other pictures related to the topic and place them in a PowerPoint or share folder for SmartBoard use.
Become familiar with the main points of the conversation.
Print out and copy support worksheets that accompany this lesson.

Objectives
1. Students will practice gathering main ideas from one sweep listening of an unfamiliar dialect.
2. Students will practice gisting skills.
3. Students will practice filling in missing information to reconstruct the most important pieces of information in a long listening text.

Warm Up (10 Minutes)
Show students pictures of the topic to be discussed in the phone conversation. Ask them to list as many related vocabulary words as they can on the SmartBoard in Modern Standard Arabic. Ask if they know any Egyptian/Levantine/Iranian dialect equivalents to the words and list them concurrently.

Transition
Tell students that you will be listening to a phone conversation related to the topic that you brainstormed on the smart board.

Listening Activity (25 Minutes)
Ask students to take notes as they listen to an uninterrupted phone conversation. They will be responsible for writing a summary of the main points of the conversation after listening one time. Have each student present his/her summary and discuss how complete the information is. After all students have presented, make a class list of the most important points. Instructor adds anything that he/she feels was missed. Ask students to judge individually how complete their information is compared to the final list that was generated and give it a percentage.

Wrap Up (10 Minutes)
Discuss listening experience and strategies with students. What range of percentages did students assign themselves? What were some of the difficulties that they encountered? How would they approach the conversation differently next time? Encourage them to continue to use the LingNet website and resources to practice listening to Arabic dialects by repeating the exercise with the goal of improving the percentage of main ideas that they get from the text.