
Don't insist on English

[listening test questions: [free download](#)]

Author: Patricia Ryan

Date: Dec 2010

Time: (10:35)

Level: **** [B1/B2]

TED TALKS Link: http://www.ted.com/talks/patricia_ryan_ideas_in_all_languages_not_just_english

Check these words before listening:

Key vocabulary

1. Dubai / the Gulf / Abu Dhabi / Kuwait / Kenya / (places)
2. Undisputed
3. To recruit
4. To morph
5. A school curriculum
6. To be on the bandwagon (idiom)
7. Linguistic ability
8. Monolingual
9. Dutch language
10. A gatekeeper
11. A segment of society
12. Self-fulfilling prophecy
13. The Islamic golden age (google this)
14. Germanic languages
15. The dark ages in Europe 500-1000 AD
16. Arbitrary
17. Einstein (google him)
18. Remedial/ dyslexic
19. Prohibitive
20. A divide
21. A circular concept
22. Forelimbs and hind limbs of an animal
23. To someone credit for something
24. Kerosene lamp / solar lamp
25. Far-reaching consequences
26. Metaphorical

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Student

TED Talks Test Questions

Time: *Approximately 1- 1:30 hours*

1. Read the title

- Try to predict the content of lecture
- Write down key terms / ideas
- Check key vocabulary using a dictionary

Try to listen ONLY two times

Three types of lesson

Lesson#1: [hard]

1. Listen once – take notes
2. Give 5 minutes to tidy notes
3. Listen again and add to notes (use a different colour pen).
4. Answer questions – set 20-25 minutes to answer.
5. Check answers
6. Listen again to check answers

Lesson #2: [medium]

1. Listen once – take notes.
2. Answer questions: 10-15 minutes
3. Listen again – answer the questions as they listen
4. Give yourself 10 minutes to tidy answers. Then check answers
5. Listen again to check answers

Lesson #3: [easier]

1. Read questions – highlight key terms
2. listen once and answer questions
3. 5 minutes to tidy notes
4. Listen again answer missed question
5. 5-10 minutes to tidy answers. Then check answers
6. Listen again to check answers

Teacher

TED Talks comprehension questions

Lesson Plan

Aim: to develop the students' ability to listen to a 10 min+ lecture, to take notes and then use those notes to answer a range of test type questions.

Lesson Time: Approximately 1:30-2:00 hours

Lesson Plan

1. Lead in

- Ask Students to discuss the 'title' and predict the content of lecture
- Ask students to write down key terms / language from discussion
- Feed in / check key vocabulary

Three types of lesson

Lesson#1: [hard]

1. Students listen once – take notes
2. Give 5 minutes to tidy notes
3. Listen again and add to notes (use a different colour pen).
4. Give out questions – set 20-25 minutes to answer.
5. Feedback answers (give out answers or go through on board)

Lesson #2: [medium]

1. Students listen once – take notes.
2. Give out questions: Set 15 minutes for students to answer questions from notes
3. Listen again – students answer the questions as they listen
4. Give extra 10 minutes to consolidate answers
5. Feedback answers (give out answers or go through on board)

Lesson #3: [easy]

1. Give out questions - students have 10 minutes to look at questions
2. Students listen and answer questions
3. Give 5 minutes to tidy notes
4. Students listen again – check answers and answer questions missed
5. 5-10 minutes to tidy answers
6. Feedback answers (give out answers or go through on board)

Don't insist on English

TED TALK: Patricia Ryan [Dec 2010. 10:35]

1. The introduction

'You think I've lost my way, and somebody's going to come on the stage in a minute and guide me gently back to my seat.'

Why is this a joke?

| |
|----|
| i. |
|----|

___ / 1

2. True / False/ Not Given [T/F/NG]

T / F / NG

| | |
|--|--|
| i. She's been teaching in the Gulf for 13 years | |
| ii. Her talk today focuses on the losses from globalisation | |
| iii. Communication across generation is important | |
| iv. A language dies every 14 hours | |
| v. English is the reason for the Language death | |
| vi. English has changed from mutually beneficial into a profit-based b model | |
| vii. The best education systems are in the UK & US | |
| viii. English empowers all citizens through education | |
| ix. Everyone wants to have an English education | |

___ / 9

3. Yes / No Questions

Level of English

| | |
|--|-----|
| Does a scientist need the same level of English as a Lawyer? | |
| NO | YES |

___ / 1

Linguistic ability

| | |
|--|-----|
| Would we stop a monolingual Dutch speaker, who had a cure for cancer, entering a British university? | |
| NO | YES |

___ / 1

4. Open Questions

i. What does 'we English teachers are the gatekeepers' mean?

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

___ / 1

ii. How does research connect to the 'Islamic Golden Age'?

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

___ / 1

5. Multiple choice

i. What is she against?

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| a | Global language |
| b | Using it as a barrier |
| c | English causing the loss of language |
| d | All the above |

___ / 1

ii. What's the problem with the English testing system?

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| a | It needs translation |
| b | It didn't use to include testing |
| c | It equates intelligence to English |
| d | All the above |

___ / 1

iii. The Einstein example highlights

| | |
|---|--|
| a | That geniuses may not pass English tests |
| b | That geniuses could be missed if they fail an English test |
| c | That not everyone should be judged by an English test |
| d | All the above |

___ / 1

6. Critical thinking

What's wrong with the Einstein example? (Help! Why shouldn't she use this example??)

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

___ / 2

7. Short answers

i. When was the American test TOEFL test introduced?

___ / 1

ii. What's prohibitive about testing people?

___ / 1

8. Summary

– [put a suitable word in the gap – first letter of word is provided]

It brings to mind a headline I saw recently: "Education: The Great i. **d**_____." Now I get it, I understand why people would want to focus on English. They want to give their children the best ii. **c**_____ in life. And to do that, they need a iii. **w**_____ education. Because, of course, the best iv. **j**_____ go to people out of the Western Universities, that I put on earlier.

___ / 4

9. Understanding terms

What does 'It's a circular thing connect to'?

___ / 1

10. Matching points

[use arrows]

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| a. Two English scientists. | i. forelimbs and the hind limbs of animals |
| b. genetics | ii. two words not one |
| c. German scientist | iii. doing an experiment |
| | |
| a. daughter | i. Science topics |
| b. best in the class | ii. Kuwait |
| c. students from abroad, | iii. not enough credit for what they know |

___ / 6

11. Key terms in an example

African boy

| | |
|--|--|
| News Company: | i. |
| Where: name of country in Africa? | ii. |
| Family's job: | iii. |
| Award: | iv. |
| Problem: 1) | v. |
| Problem: 1) | vi. |
| Invention: | vii. |
| Solution: | viii. |
| Quote: | ix. The children can I _____ Africa from what it is today, a dark continent, to a I _____ continent." [2 points] |

___ / 10

12. Conclusion

What is the basic conclusion? (2 key points)

___ / 2

Overall Score: ___ / 44

Don't insist on English ANSWERS

TED TALK: Patricia Ryan [Dec 2010. 10:35]

1. The introduction

Why is this a joke?

'You think I've lost my way, and somebody's going to come on the stage in a minute and guide me gently back to my seat.'

i. It's that she is too old to be doing a presentation

___ / 1

2. True / False/ Not Given [T/F/NG]

| | T / F / NG |
|---|------------|
| i. She's been teaching in the Gulf for 13 years [30] | F |
| ii. Her talk today focuses on the losses from globalisation [language loss & globalisation of English] | T |
| iii. Communication across generation is important | T |
| iv. A language dies every 14 hours [days] | F |
| v. English is the reason for the Language death | NG |
| vi. English has changed from mutually beneficial into a profit-based b model | T |
| vii. The best education systems are in the UK & US | T |
| viii. English empowers all citizens through education | NG |
| ix. Everyone wants to have an English education | T |

___ / 9

3. Yes / No Questions

Level of English

Does a scientist need the same level of English as a Lawyer?

NO

YES

___ / 1

Linguistic ability

Would we stop a monolingual Dutch speaker, who had a cure for cancer, entering a British university?

NO

YES

___ / 1

4. Open Questions

i. What does 'We English teachers are the gatekeepers' mean?

You have to satisfy us with your English / we check to see if your English is good enough before you can go through the gate.

___ / 1

ii. How does research connect to the Islamic golden age?

Translation / They translated from Latin and Greek into Arabic, into Persian, and then it was translated on into the Germanic languages of Europe and the Romance languages

___ / 1

5. Multiple choice

i. What is she against?

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| a | Global language |
| b | <u>Using it as a barrier</u> |
| c | English causing the loss of language |
| d | All the above |

___ / 1

ii. What's the problem with the English testing system?

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|---|--|
| a | It needs translation |
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___ / 1

iii. The Einstein example highlights

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|---|--|
| a | That geniuses may not pass English tests |
| b | That geniuses could be missed if they fail an English test |
| c | That not everyone should be judged by an English test |
| d | <u>All the above</u> |

___ / 1

6. Critical thinking

What's wrong with the Einstein example?

It's not a good example / Einstein was one in billion / how many geniuses do you know?
[this question tests criticality – it's not in the listening = 2 points]

___ / 2

7. Short answers

i. When was the American test TOEFL test introduced?

1969

___ / 1

ii. What's prohibitive about testing people?

but they are prohibitive to so many millions of poor people. So immediately, we're rejecting them

___ / 1

8. Summary – [put a suitable word in the gap – first letter of word is provided]

It brings to mind a headline I saw recently: "Education: The Great i. **Divide**." Now I get it, I understand why people would want to focus on English. They want to give their children the best ii. **chance** in life. And to do that, they need a iii. **Western** education. Because, of course, the best iv. **jobs** go to people out of the Western Universities, that I put on earlier.

[similar words are acceptable but **MUST** be grammatical]. ___ / 4

9. Understanding terms

What does 'It's a circular thing connect to'?

Only the rich / western world have the opportunities to get the best jobs – goes in a circle

___ / 1

10. Matching points [use arrows]

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| a. Two English scientists. | i. forelimbs and the hind limbs of animals |
| b. genetics | ii. two words not one |
| c. German scientist | iii. doing an experiment |
| | |
| a. daughter | i. Science topics |
| b. best in the class | ii. Kuwait |
| c. students from abroad, | iii. not enough credit for what they know |

___ / 6

11. Key terms in an example

African boy

| | |
|--|--|
| News Company: | i. CNN |
| Where: name of country in Africa? | ii. <i>Kenya</i> |
| Family's job: | iii. shepherd boy - shepherds |
| Award: | iv. Heroes Award |
| Problem: 1) | v. The kerosene lamp, it had smoke and it damaged his eyes |
| Problem: 1) | vi. there was never enough kerosene, because what does a dollar a day buy for you |
| Invention: | vii. a cost-free solar lamp |
| Solution: | viii. And now the children in his village get the same grades at school as the children who have electricity at home |
| Quote: | ix. The children can lead Africa from what it is today, a dark continent, to a light continent." |

[2 points]

___ / 10

12. Conclusion

What is the basic conclusion? (2 key points)

People who have no light, whether it's physical or metaphorical, cannot pass our exams¹, and we can never know what they know².

[2 points]

___ / 2

Overall Score: ___ / 44