



TED TALKS

AI Listening Worksheets

EXAMPLE



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EXAMPLE

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Author: Anil Seth / Date: April 2026 / Time: 14.57
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Author: Alvin W. Graylin, Manoush Zomorodi / Date: November 2025 / Time: 10.25
4. **Will AI take your job in the next 10 years? Wrong question**
Author: Vinciane Beauchêne / Date: October 2025 / Time: 12.17
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Author: D. Scott Phoenix / Date: April 2026 / Time: 12.03

TED Talks Test Questions

EXAMPLE

Aim: *to develop the students' ability to listen to a 10 min+ lecture, to take notes and then use those notes to answer some comprehension questions.*

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

1. Lead in

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

Three types of lesson

Lesson#1: [challenging]

1. Students listen once & take notes.
2. Give the students 5 minutes to tidy their notes.
3. Students listen again and add to their notes (use a different **colour** pen).
4. Distribute questions. Set 20-25 minutes to answer.
5. Feedback: distribute or project answers.

Lesson #2: [medium]

1. Students listen once & take notes.
2. Distribute questions: Set 15 minutes for students to answer the questions from their notes.
3. Students listen again and answer the missed questions as they listen.
4. Give the students an extra 10 minutes to consolidate answers.
5. Feedback: distribute or project answers.

Lesson #3: [easier]

1. Distribute questions. Students have 10 minutes to read through the questions.
2. Students listen and answer the questions.
3. Give the students 5 minutes to tidy their answers.
4. Students listen again. They check their answers & answer any missed questions.
5. Give the students 5-10 minutes to tidy their answers.
6. Feedback: distribute or project answers.

Why AI isn't going to become conscious

Why AI isn't going to become conscious

EXAMPLE

[listening comprehension questions]

https://www.ted.com/talks/anil_seth_why_ai_isn_t_going_to_become_conscious

Author: Anil Seth

Date: April 2026

Time: 14.57

Location: TED TALKS

Level: **** [B1/B2/C1]

Link: https://www.ted.com/talks/anil_seth_why_ai_isn_t_going_to_become_conscious

Check these words and phrases before listening:

Key vocabulary

- 1) Mary Shelley's Frankenstein
- 2)
- 3) Ava in Alex Garland's Ex Machina
- 4)
- 5) Narcissus
- 6) Silicon
- 7) Claude / ChatGPT
- 8)
- 9) Algorithm
- 10)
- 11) Consciousness
- 12)
- 13) Superseded
- 14) Oblivion
- 15)
- 16) Myth
- 17) Simulate
- 18)
- 19) Flesh-and-blood
- 20) Cortex
- 21)
- 22) Neuron
- 23) Metabolism
- 24)
- 25) Consequential
- 26)
- 27) Hubris
- 28)

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Why AI isn't going to become conscious

Take your notes here:

Why AI isn't going to become conscious

Take your notes here:

Why AI isn't going to become conscious

EXAMPLE

Answer the following questions:

1. According to the talk, what is the main difference between intelligence and consciousness?
2. Why do humans [] AI will automatically become conscious?
3. What comparison does the [] and []?
4. Explain the [] the speaker mentions.
5. Why [] hardware [] same with the mind and the brain?
6. How does the speaker [] argument?
7. What biological [] experience?
8. What is [] that only *seem* []?
9. How can conscious- [] vulnerable?
10. What does the [] ways"?

Total Score __ / 10

Critical Thinking Questions **B1-B2 Level**

EXAMPLE

1. Will AI ever be conscious? Why? Why not?
2. The speaker says that a [redacted] What is he trying to explain about AI by using this example?
3. Why does the speaker think we [redacted] have feelings, [redacted] same about AI that studies science data?
4. The talk says the [redacted] real [redacted] [redacted] computer chips?
5. What does the [redacted] because they *seem* like they have feelings?

Notes

Critical Thinking Questions **C1-C2 Level**

EXAMPLE

1. Question: The speaker states that language models only "simulate" consciousness and that humans are "built to be seduced" by their own reflections. In what ways do modern AI interfaces encourage us to project humanity onto them, and how might this change human-to-human relationships?

2. Question: Consider the [redacted]. How have technological metaphors throughout history (plumbing, [redacted], computers) [redacted] [redacted]?

3. Question: The talk suggests [redacted] create technological wonder and keep share prices high. Do you think the current public anxiety about AI [redacted] strategy [redacted]?

4. Question: If an AI achieves a level of [redacted], [redacted] and ones", do we have a [redacted] with kindness? Why or why not?

5. Question: The speaker argues that real [redacted] cells (artificial life) that can replicate metabolism, would that entity have a better chance of being [redacted]

Notes

Why AI isn't going to become conscious **ANSWERS**

EXAMPLE

1. Question: According to the talk, what is the main difference between intelligence and consciousness?

- **Answer:** Intelligence is about "doing" and solving problems, such as puzzles or tricky situations. On the other hand, consciousness is about "feeling and being," which includes sensory experiences and emotional awareness.

ALL ANSWERS IN PAID VERSION...

How to stop AI from killing your critical thinking

How to stop AI from killing your critical thinking

[listening comprehension questions]

EXAMPLE

Author: Advait Sarkar

Date: September 2025

Time: 14.54

Location: TEDAI Vienna

Level: **** [B1/B2/C1]

Link: https://www.ted.com/talks/advait_sarkar_how_to_stop_ai_from_killing_your_critical_thinking

Check these words and phrases before listening:

Key vocabulary

- 1) Tools for Thought team at Microsoft Research in Cambridge
- 2)
- 3) Irony
- 4)
- 5) Validator
- 6) Prototype
- 7)
- 8) Outsourced
- 9)
- 10) Alienated
- 11) Hive mind
- 12)
- 13) Musculature
- 14) Juncture
- 15)
- 16) Two diverging roads
- 17)
- 18) Lenses
- 19) Provocation
- 20)
- 21) Expertise
- 22) An ersatz human
- 23)
- 24) Customisable
- 25) Scaffolds
- 26)
- 27) No such thing as a free lunch
- 28) F

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How to stop AI from killing your critical thinking

Take your notes here:

How to stop AI from killing your critical thinking

Take your notes here:

How to stop AI from killing your critical thinking

EXAMPLE

Answer the following questions:

1. How does the speaker's use of AI during his presentation differ from using it simply as a traditional assistant?
2. What does [redacted] reason"?
3. According to the [redacted] creativity?
4. Under what conditions do [redacted] thinking when using AI?
5. Why does the speaker believe [redacted] to our [redacted] abilities?
6. What is the fundamental [redacted] tool for thought"?
7. In the Microsoft Research [redacted] the user?
8. Explain [redacted] prototype.
9. Why does the speaker highlight [redacted] interface?
10. What are the two [redacted] thought?

Total Score ___ / 10

Critical Thinking Discussion Questions **B1-B2 Level**

EXAMPLE

1. Do you agree that using AI too much could make people think less for themselves? Why or why not?
2. What are the [redacted] as writing reports or emails?
3. The speaker says AI should "[redacted]" you agree?
4. How could AI be [redacted] replacing it?
5. If AI can do many [redacted] humans to develop their own critical thinking skills?

Notes

Critical Thinking Discussion Questions **C1-C2 Level**

EXAMPLE

1. The speaker states that writer's block has changed from "staring at a blank page" to "staring at a page that AI filled out... and wondering if I agree with it." How does becoming a "professional validator of a robot's opinions" alter a worker's sense of ownership and pride in their work?
2. The talk notes [redacted], their memory of that information drops significantly. If future generations grow up relying entirely [redacted] [redacted]?
3. The speaker introduces a [redacted] harder. In a capitalist business world that highly values speed, optimisation, and profit, will companies willingly [redacted] human thought?
4. Consider the speaker's analogy: "We invented [redacted] out [redacted] society continues to automate intellectual effort, do you foresee a future split where only an elite group [redacted] [redacted] decline?"
5. The talk poses a final philosophical question: "[redacted] for [redacted]?" Where do you draw the absolute line between tasks that AI *should* handle and experiences that must [redacted]

Notes

How to stop AI from killing your critical thinking **ANSWERS**

EXAMPLE

1. How does the speaker use of AI during his presentation differ from using it simply as a traditional assistant?

- **Answer:** Instead of using AI as a basic assistant to speed up his preparation, the speaker uses it as a "tool for thought." This means using the technology to actively challenge, improve, and develop his own thinking process.

ALL ANSWERS PROVIDED IN PAID VERSION...

3 possible futures for AI — which will we choose?

3 possible futures for AI — which will we choose?

[listening comprehension questions]

EXAMPLE

Author: Alvin W. Graylin, Manoush Zomorodi

Date: November 2025

Time: 10.25

Location: TEDNext 2025

Level: **** [B1/B2/C1]

Link: https://www.ted.com/talks/alvin_w_graylin_manoush_zomorodi_3_possible_futures_for_ai_which_will_we_choose

Check these words and phrases before listening:

Key vocabulary

- 1) Cybersecurity, VR, semiconductors
- 2) Stanford (university)
- 3) T [REDACTED]
- 4) Hype
- 5) [REDACTED]
- 6) Kinetic war / nuclear war
- 7) Inflection
- 8) [REDACTED]
- 9) Mad Max future
- 10) Star Trek option (Vulcans bring peaceful technology)
- 11) [REDACTED]
- 12) Myths
- 13) [REDACTED]
- 14) AGI- artificial generative intelligence
- 15) CERN (European Organisation for Nuclear Research)
- 16) [REDACTED]
- 17) Optimist
- 18) [REDACTED]
- 19) AI policy paper (3 parts)
- 20) ISS (International Space Station)
- 21) [REDACTED]
- 22) Enlightened
- 23) GI Bill for the AI age
- 24) [REDACTED]
- 25) Actionable
- 26) Reskilling
- 27) [REDACTED]
- 28) Proportions
- 29) [REDACTED]
- 30) Mindset
- 31) [REDACTED]
- 32) A glimpse into the future

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3 possible futures for AI — which will we choose?

Take your notes here:

3 possible futures for AI — which will we choose?

Take your notes here:

3 possible futures for AI - which will we choose?

EXAMPLE

Answer the following questions:

1. What makes Alvin W. Graylin's background in the field of technology unique compared to many others?
2. According to the speaker, [] lead to?
3. Why do some people [] unavoidable?
4. According to the speaker, [] military-industrial complex?
5. How does Sam Altman define [] ?
6. What is the "CERN [] ?
7. Why does [] "sovereign AI"?
8. What historical initiative [] AI unemployment?
9. How does the timeline [] revolutions?
10. Why does Graylin insist [] models?

Total Score ___ / 10

Critical Thinking Questions **B1-B2 Level**

EXAMPLE

1. Do you agree that countries should work together on AI instead of competing? Why or why not?
2. The speaker says AI [redacted] do to help affected workers?
3. Would a single [redacted] or why not?
4. The speaker argues [redacted] them. Do you think companies will follow this advice? Why?
5. Which future do you think is [redacted] Star Trek future? Explain your answer.

Students' own answers.

Critical Thinking Questions **C1-C2 Level**

EXAMPLE

- 1. Question:** The speaker mentions that if AI replaces the average worker it could liberate us to do art, music, and attend events. Do you think a society without traditional work would make humans happier, or would it lead to a crisis of purpose and identity?
- 2. Question:** Graylin advocates for "open science" [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] current geopolitical tensions and economic competition between world superpowers like the US and China, [redacted] not?
- 3. Question:** The talk proposes [redacted]. Since AI [redacted] of people globally rather than just citizens of one nation, who should be financially responsible for funding [redacted]?
- 4. Question:** Graylin states that working [redacted]
[redacted] mindset raises everyone up. Can capitalism, which is fundamentally built on competition and [redacted]?
- 5. Question:** Consider the three futures [redacted]
[redacted] Based on how governments and tech companies are behaving right now, which path do you think we are [redacted] you this?

Students' own answers.

3 possible futures for AI - which will we choose? **ANSWERS**

EXAMPLE

1. What makes Alvin W. Graylin's background in the field of technology unique compared to many others?

- **Answer:** Graylin has 35 years of experience in fields like AI, cybersecurity, VR, and semiconductors, and his unique perspective comes from working extensively in both the United States (Stanford University) and China.

ALL ANSWERS PROVIDED IN PAID VERSION...

Will AI take your job in the next 10 years? Wrong question

Will AI take your job in the next 10 years? Wrong question

[listening comprehension questions]

EXAMPLE

Author: Vinciane Beauchêne

Date: October 2025

Time: 12.17

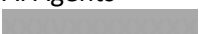
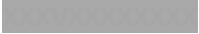
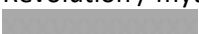
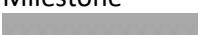
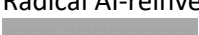
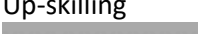
Location: TED Talks

Level: **** [B1/B2/C1]

Link: https://www.ted.com/talks/vinciane_beauchene_will_ai_take_your_job_in_the_next_10_years_wrong_question

Check these words and phrases before listening:

Key vocabulary

- 1) Alan Turing (a British mathematician, computer scientist, and codebreaker)
- 2) Obsession
- 3) 
- 4) Strategic
- 5) Talent
- 6) 
- 7) Customer goods
- 8) AI Agents
- 9) 
- 10) The James Bond of AI
- 11) 
- 12) Flipped something around
- 13) 
- 14) Loyalty
- 15) Mindset
- 16) 
- 17) AI will augment us, not replace us
- 18) Narrative
- 19) 
- 20) Revolution / myths
- 21) 
- 22) AGI: artificial general intelligence / ACI: artificial capable intelligence
- 23) Ambiguous
- 24) 
- 25) To anchor a boat in a storm (idiom)
- 26) Milestone
- 27) 
- 28) Radical AI-reinvention
- 29) 
- 30) Up-skilling
- 31) 
- 32) Talents

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Will AI take your job in the next 10 years? Wrong question

Take your notes here:

Will AI take your job in the next 10 years? Wrong question

Take your notes here:

Will AI take your job in the next 10 years? Wrong question

EXAMPLE

Answer the following questions:

1. Why does the speaker believe that Alan Turing's original "Turing test" was wrong?
2. What are "agents" AI?
3. In the sales engine example, representatives?
4. What does the speaker mean humans crawl linearly"?
5. What is the main Capable Intelligence (ACI)?
6. Why does the speaker argue " for humans?
7. Why does from disappearing?
8. According to the talk, transformation?
9. In the consumer goods example, due to AI?
10. Why will human interaction AI becomes the standard norm?

Total Score ___ / 10

Critical Thinking Discussion Questions **B1-B2 Level**

EXAMPLE

1. The speaker asks, "If an AI could take over all of your team's tasks, who would you keep and why?" How would you answer this question?
2. Why do you think the [redacted] than low prices or products?
3. The speaker says [redacted] tasks do you think humans should continue to do?
4. Do you agree that [redacted] for the AI age? Why or why not?
5. The speaker argues [redacted] whether jobs will disappear. Do you agree? Why?

Students' own answers.

Critical Thinking Discussion Questions **C1-C2 Level**

EXAMPLE

1. Question: The speaker states that there is no "universal list" of human qualities that will remain ours forever, and each company must find its own strategy. Do you agree that human value is relative to a company's goals, or are there core human traits that AI can never truly replace?

2. Question: The talk [redacted] employees [redacted] compared to freelancers who spend four hours. How can modern corporations realistically redesign [redacted] without [redacted]?

3. Question: The speaker highlights [redacted] as a [redacted] (replacing tasks). If AI agents take over entire workflows, what are the ethical responsibilities of business [redacted] automated?

4. Question: [redacted] statement that [redacted] cranky" and "doesn't judge you." What are the psychological risks to society if humans begin substituting [redacted] polite [redacted]

5. Question: The speaker notes that historical [redacted] "on [redacted] the training nor the time to adapt". Can we adapt fast enough?

Students' own answers.

Will AI take your job in the next 10 years? **ANSWERS**

EXAMPLE

1. Why does the speaker believe that Alan Turing's original "Turing test" was wrong?

- **Answer:** She believes the test was wrong because it focuses purely on a machine's ability to talk. In reality, what is going to change the world is not talking, but "doing", the ability of a machine to actively perform tasks.

ALL ANSWERS PROVIDED IN PAID VERSION...

Why humans should merge with AI

Why humans should merge with AI

[listening comprehension questions]

EXAMPLE

Author: D. Scott Phoenix

Date: April 2026

Time: 12.03

Location: TEDTalks

Level: **** [B1/B2/C1]

Link: https://www.ted.com/talks/d_scott_phoenix_why_humans_should_merge_with_ai

Check these words and phrases before listening:

Key vocabulary

- 1) Unmoored
- 2) Single-celled bacteria / photosynthesis
- 3) 
- 4) Grow and replicate (cells)
- 5) 
- 6) The cusp of a major transition
- 7) Trapped in a race
- 8) 
- 9) Oxygen crisis
- 10) Entities
- 11) 
- 12) Homo sapiens / pan troglodytes / chimpanzees
- 13) Mainframe computer
- 14) 
- 15) Noland Arbaugh (1st person to receive a Neuralink)
- 16) Microscopic
- 17) I 
- 18) Advantages of integration
- 19) 
- 20) Replicate
- 21) Immune system
- 22) 
- 23) Fragile
- 24) 
- 25) Turbulent
- 26) To defect / to be entitled
- 27) 
- 28) Institutions
- 29) 
- 30) Fossils

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Why humans should merge with AI

Take your notes here:

Why humans should merge with AI

Take your notes here:

Why humans should merge with AI

EXAMPLE

Answer the following questions:

1. How does the speaker use the historical event of photosynthesis to describe the current AI situation?
2. According to the talk, [] billion years ago?
3. Why do AI company founders [] about the risks?
4. What does the speaker argue [] merging with us?
5. What historical example [] "apex intelligence" arrives?
6. In what ways does the speaker suggest humans [] technology?
7. How has the physical [] over time?
8. What capability is [] phone?
9. How does the speaker [] system?
10. What does the [] "merger"?

Total Score ___ / 10

Critical Thinking Discussion Questions **B1-B2 Level**

EXAMPLE

1. Do you think AI will help humans more than it harms them in the future?
2. Would you choose [redacted] productive?
3. Do you [redacted] from it?
4. Would you accept a brain [redacted] day?
5. Why do you think the speaker [redacted] the age of AI?

Students' own answers.

Critical Thinking Discussion Questions **C1-C2 Level**

EXAMPLE

1. Question: The speaker presents a choice between two futures: merging with AI or being replaced by it. Do you think this is a realistic view, or is it possible for humans to maintain AI as a strictly controlled tool without integrating it into our bodies and minds?

2. Question: Think [redacted] control a machine with his thoughts. If human-AI integration becomes common, [redacted] and those who cannot?

3. Question: The talk [redacted] "major [redacted] As AI changes the economy, what steps should governments and communities take to ensure that [redacted]

4. Question: If technology reaches a [redacted] inside your mind making it feel just like a natural memory, how does this alter our definition of human [redacted]

5. Question: The [redacted] with [redacted]. The ones that failed left fossils." In your opinion, does the rapid development of AI represent the [redacted] deviation [redacted]?

Students' own answers.

Why humans should merge with AI **ANSWERS**

EXAMPLE

1. How does the speaker use the historical event of photosynthesis to describe the current AI situation?

- **Answer:** The speaker explains that when bacteria invented photosynthesis, the resulting oxygen was actually a poison that caused a mass extinction. He calls AI the "oxygen crisis of our era" to show it is a powerful but highly dangerous shift whether we are ready or not.

ALL ANSWERS PROVIDED IN PAID VERSION...