

Teaching with TED Talks

TED.com

English Now!, Now Online
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Why Use TED Talks?

Content is the key ingredient that you will need in order to have good interactions in your online classroom. TED Talks provide carefully vetted content on a wide variety of subjects. See content guidelines at <https://www.ted.com/about/our-organization/our-policies-terms/ted-content-guidelines>

TED Talk videos are accompanied by written transcripts and can be the basis for listening, speaking, reading and writing lessons.

TED Talks are a great way for students to learn new vocabulary in the context of interesting topics.

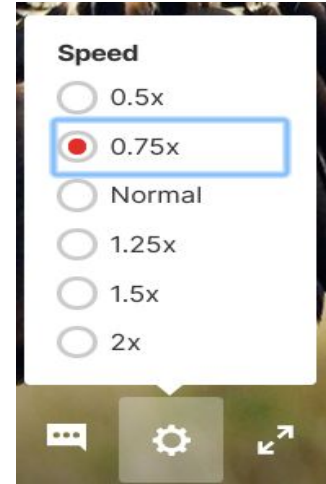
TED Talks model good public speaking skills, so they can provide motivation for students to plan their own presentations



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When and how should students watch TED Talks?

- Preview selected parts of the talk as a class. Discuss the main ideas and teach key vocabulary
- Less is more - assign TED Talks in chunks, to prepare for each day's class discussion.
- Encourage students to listen to the assigned portion two or three times. Separately, they may also want to read the transcript to build their comprehension.
- Students can use the settings to slow the speed to .75x (.5x is usually too slow!)
- Note that subtitles are available in 33 languages, but not recommended, as they are not always accurate in English and can be distracting in other languages.



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How do I find a good TED talk for my class?

- TED talks are searchable by topic and duration. Still, searching for TED talks can be overwhelming. There are more than 3300 talks!
- You can sign up for TED Recommends at [TED.com](https://www.ted.com/recommends) to get a personalized list of talks sent to your email
- National Geographic Learning has two series that feature curated TED Talks good for teaching intermediate and above English language learners - Keynote and World English.
- Peggy Preusch offered some of her favorites from Keynote and World English ...



Some recommended TED Talks from Keynote and World English

- I ● [Sleepy Man Banjo Boys: Bluegrass virtuosity from ... New Jersey?](#) Teen brothers play “three dazzling songs in three different keys, passing the lead back and forth from fiddle to banjo to guitar.”
- [Jessi Arrington: Wearing nothing new](#) “It’s a meditation on conscious consumption -- wrapped in a rainbow of color and creativity”
 - [The joy of surfing in ice-cold water](#) “Anything that is worth pursuing is going to require us to suffer, just a little bit,” says surf photographer Chris Burkard
 - [Munir Virani: Why I love vultures](#) Raptor biologist Munir Virani says we need to pay more attention to these unique and misunderstood creatures.
 - [My year reading a book from every country in the world](#) Ann Morgan set an ambitious goal: to read one book from every country in the world over the course of a year.
 - [Pico Iyer: Where is home?](#) Writer Pico Iyer -- who himself has three or four “origins” -- meditates on the meaning of home
 - [Mark Bezos: A life lesson from a volunteer firefighter](#) Volunteer firefighter Mark Bezos tells a story of an act of heroism that didn't go quite as expected -- but that taught him a big lesson: Don't wait to be a hero.



A useful organizer - see English Now! Resources for Our Team (also available as a free download at Teachers Pay Teachers)

Directions View the T.E.D. Talk and complete the following grid. If you run out of space on the grid for any of your answers, feel free to continue writing on the back of this sheet.	1 Title of T.E.D. Talk:	2 Name of Speaker:	3 Date of T.E.D. Talk and Number of Views:
	4 What was the speaker's thesis (main point) of this speech?	6 Ethos is a speaker's ability to build credibility, establish himself/herself as an expert, and/or convince the audience members that the speaker has their best interests at heart. How does this speaker build ethos? Feel free to also refer to the speaker's profile information from the ted.com webpage as you build your answer.	
5 Circle any of the following adjectives that describe this T.E.D. talk: <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center; margin: 10px auto; width: 150px;"> Humorous Inspiring Dull Persuasive Intellectual Repetitive Confusing </div>		7 Pathos is an appeal to emotions (everything from humor to horror) in order to sway an audience, while logos is the use of data/evidence to prove one's case. Did this speaker rely more on pathos or logos in his/her presentation? What argument/point in this presentation did you find the most compelling? Why?	
8 T.E.D. Talk presenters are known as effective public speakers. Describe two things this speaker does well in terms of engaging the audience. Be sure to include the minute:second mark [ex: 8:49] to denote the two specific moments you discuss here. 1. 2.		9 Write two specific things you learned from this presentation. 1. 2.	
10 If you could ask this speaker a question about his/her information or presentation, what would you ask?		11 Give one piece of constructive criticism that would improve the presentation.	12 What group of people would benefit the most from hearing this lecture?

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Questions to consider while viewing a TED Talk

Adapted from Laura Randazzo's worksheet, included on the next slide. See Laura's video [here](#)

1. What is the speaker's main point?
2. How does the speaker establish credibility (ethos)? Read the author bio for important background info on the speaker.
3. Does the speaker rely on emotional appeal (pathos) or facts (logos) to make their point?
4. What does the speaker do well? What specific parts of the talk impressed you?
5. What did you learn from the presentation?
6. What question would you like to ask the speaker?
7. What constructive criticism do you have for the speaker?
8. What audience would benefit most from listening to this talk?



Do you have a favorite TED Talk?

Send Jennifer your favorites so we can keep building our own resource list!

Thank you and happy viewing!

jennifer.kagan@english-now.com



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