

VIDEO SESSION: A TED TALK

Watch this TED talk (with English subtitles or with no subtitles) and do the activities below:

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



pristine: in very good condition, as if new

- 1 Read the paragraph. Match each **bold** word to its meaning (1–4). You will hear these words in the TED Talk.

ROBERT SWAN has made it his **mission** to protect Antarctica. He knows from experience that what is happening there **threatens** the Earth's long-term health. His idea worth spreading is that the **preservation** of Antarctica is **linked** to our survival, and that it is possible for us to slow down the melting of ice at the South Pole.

1 connected: _____

3 to put in danger: _____

2 a very important task: _____

4 action of keeping the same: _____

>> Watch the full TED talk to get a general idea of that it is about.

- 2 Watch the first 9 minutes of the talk again. Circle **T** for true or **F** for false.

1 Robert Swan describes himself as an environmentalist.

T **F**

2 On the expedition, Swan's team had radios so that they could call for help.

T **F**

3 It was so cold that water could freeze in their eyes.

T **F**

4 The journey to the South Pole took 90 days.

T **F**

3 Watch from minute 9:20 again.

Complete the summary with the numbers you hear.

Robert Swan has taken more than ¹_____ businesspeople and students to Antarctica so that they could experience the place for themselves. During these visits, they removed ²_____ tons of old waste metal over a period of ³_____ years and recycled it in South America. Swan has been to Antarctica ⁴_____ times. He believes everyone who goes there returns home as a champion* for this amazing place.

*champion (n) a supporter or defender of something

4 Watch from minute 11:40 again.

What ‘simple solution’ does Robert Swan suggest to stop the melting of Antarctica’s ice? Circle the correct answer.

- a Use more renewable energy so people won’t need to use Antarctica’s resources. We may also slow down the melting of Antarctica’s ice.
 - b Use renewable energy from Antarctica so people will realize how special the place is. It can also help slow down global warming.
-

ANSWERS:

1) 1 linked 2 mission 3 threaten 4 preservation

2) 1 F 2 F 3 T 4 F

3) 1 1,000 2 1,500 3 eight 4 35

4) a)

In exercise 3 there’s a mixture of **past simple** (*removed, recycled*) and **present perfect** (*has taken, has been*) examples.

We’ll work on the present perfect later, but to give you a hint: the present perfect examples refer to events that happened in the past over a period of time that is not explicitly stated and the **past simple** examples refer to things that happened in **a specific period of time in the past** (*during these visits*)