

Open-sourced blueprints of civilization

Read the title, the information about the TED speaker, and the key terms below.
Which of the following statements do you think are true about the TED speaker?
Discuss your ideas with a partner.

- a. He grew up on a farm.
- b. He has a PhD in physics.
- c. He is concerned about the environment.
- d. He studied software engineering.

MARCIN JAKUBOWSKI Farmer and Technologist

Marcin Jakubowski is the founder of Open Source Ecology, which is creating the Global Village Construction Set—the blueprints for simple construction of everything needed to start a self-sustaining village (starting cost: \$10,000). At Factor e-Farm in rural Missouri, he's been successfully putting those ideas to the test.

Marcin Jakubowski's idea worth spreading is that open-source technology can enable human creativity and create more environmentally sustainable methods of production.


Key terms

open-sourced: information that is published on the Internet that others can use or adapt for free. It is available ("open") to anyone with an Internet connection.

blueprint: a design plan or technical drawing that shows you how to build something, for example, a machine or a house.

self-sustaining village: a small town where everything the community needs to survive (for example, food, shelter, energy) is made right in the village.

a starter kit: a starter kit is something that contains all of the material and instructions you need to start a DIY project.

 **2.40** The sentences below will help you learn words in the TED Talk. Read and listen to the sentences and guess the meanings of the words in bold. Then write each word or phrase next to its definition on page 155.

- a. When I **set out** to do something, I am usually successful in completing it.
- b. After the earthquake, people whose houses were destroyed had to move. They started a **settlement** just outside of town, close to the river.
- c. The new machines helped increase **productivity** on the farm. They helped the farmers do their work faster and more efficiently.
- d. His ideas are **sound**. He has developed them over years of research.
- e. In some countries, the **distribution** of wealth is quite unequal. For example, one percent of the people might control 99 percent of the wealth.
- f. In today's world, there are many different **means** of communication: email, text messages, telephone, etc.
- g. You can only **transcend** your fear if you understand what you are afraid of and face it directly. By facing your fear, you can often get past it and move on.
- h. When there is a large **supply** of houses and very few buyers, house prices go down. On the other hand, when there is a **scarcity** of houses and a lot of potential buyers, housing prices rise. This is called the law of **supply** and demand.
- i. Using machines rather than human workers, factories are able to make products on a large **scale**. For example, a shoe factory might be able to produce a thousand pairs of shoes a day, while someone making shoes by hand can only work on a small **scale**, making two pairs a day.

1. _____ (phrasal v) begin an action or plan
2. _____ (n) a quantity of products
3. _____ (n) a very small or limited amount of something
4. _____ (n) a new area where a group of people has decided to live
5. _____ (n) the relationship between how many quality products and services each worker or industry can produce in a given amount of time
6. _____ (n) in a big or small way
7. _____ (n) methods or ways
8. _____ (n) spread or placement over an area
9. _____ (adj) logical; supported by evidence
10. _____ (v) overcome; go past the limitations