Tyler DeWitt: Hey, science teachers – make it fun

High school science teacher Tyler DeWitt was very excited about a lesson plan on things that cause disease (how cool!) – and extremely sad when his students hated it. The problem was the textbook: it was impossible to understand. He calls on science teachers to stop using so much special language and talking only about working carefully. He says they should use more stories and activities to make science interesting.

Naomi Oreskes: Why we should trust scientists

To solve the world's biggest problems, we must ask scientists some questions. But why should we believe their answers? Naomi Oreskes, an expert in the history of science, talks about why people believe, and gives reasons for why we ought to trust science.

Beau Lotto and Amy O'Toole: Science is for everyone, kids included

What do science and play have in common? Brain scientist Beau Lotto thinks all people (kids included) should do science, and by discovering things, change their way of thinking about it. He presents with twelve-year-old Amy O'Toole, who, along with her classmates, published a scientific article by schoolchildren, about the Blackawton bees project. It starts: 'Once upon a time ...'

Michael Specter: The danger of science denial

Some people say that helpful medicines actually make people ill. Others worry about new types of food, or use folk medicines that simply don't work. These facts show that many people are afraid of science, says Michael Specter. He warns the trend could have a terrible result for human progress.

3 plants and other traditional products for fighting illness – Some modern health products come from _____.
4 a person with the job of doing science – The _____ explained her research.

5 Which talk would you most like to see? Why? Watch the talk at TED.com.

AUTHENTIC LISTENING SKILLS Elision

6 1 48 You are going to hear a podcast in which a member of the *Keynote* team talks about Beau Lotto and Amy O'Toole's TED Talk, *Science is for everyone, kids included*. Listen to these extracts from the podcast. Underline the sounds that are elided.

1 When I first saw the title of this talk, I didn't think it looked very interesting.
2 When I was at school, science was my least favourite lesson.
3 I didn't think the material could be connected in any way to my life, and so I couldn't see any purpose in studying it.

LISTENING

7 1 49 Listen to the full podcast. Choose the correct option to make true sentences.

1 When she was in school, Alison *didn't think science was creative / loved science*.
2 Alison says that Lotto's presentation shows his *great knowledge of / excitement about* science.
3 Amy O'Toole *wrote an article about her / helped Lotto with his* research.

8 1 49 Listen again. Are these statements true (T) or false (F)?

1 At school, Alison thought science was interesting, but difficult. ☐
2 Alison says that science is like a sport without rules. ☐
3 O'Toole did research into bees. ☐
4 O'Toole is the youngest person to speak at a TED conference. ☐
5 Alison says that the TED Talk relates to science, but not to daily life. ☐
6 Alison regrets not listening in her science classes. ☐

VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

9 Read the sentences from the podcast. Choose the correct meaning of the words in bold.

1 I always thought of myself as creative but I never thought creativity **had anything to do with** science.
a was a subject in **b** was connected with **c** could be understood by
2 This really showed the subject **in a new light**.
a differently **b** badly **c** quietly
3 Plus, he feels very excited by science – his enthusiasm and passion in this talk really **rub off on you**.
a make you angry **b** are not real **c** affect you
4 I think we can sometimes forget what children **are capable of**, when, in fact, we could really learn from them.
a can do **b** learn **c** expect
5 It's about looking past our own ideas, beliefs and thought habits, and challenging ourselves to live with change, and to accept our **uncertain** world.
a not very dangerous **b** not completely known **c** not beautiful

LIVEWORKSHEETS