

3 Reading for gist

Read this text about Albert Einstein. Circle the correct word from each pair in *italics*.

A great thinker

How much do you know about Albert Einstein? If you've heard about him but don't know much about his life and work, then read on!

Scientists used to think that matter could not be created nor destroyed. They also believed that the same principles applied to energy. However, in the first few years of the 20th century, the German scientist Albert Einstein came *out / up* with a different idea. He predicted that it should be possible to change mass into energy. Einstein's idea – his Theory of Relativity – was first proved *by / in* 1932. Einstein showed us that a small amount of matter could be changed into a vast amount of energy. This made the development of nuclear energy *available / possible*.

Born in 1879, Einstein was an unusual child; I was fascinated to learn that he didn't speak until he was 3 years old! Early photographs show a serious and intense-looking little boy. When he was 12, he *learnt / taught* himself Euclidean geometry. He hated school, however, and at the age of 15, he used the fact that the family had moved house as an *excuse / explain* for not going to school for a year. He finally graduated in 1900 by studying the lecture notes of a classmate.