EDI: TALLER DE ESCUCHA INTEGRAL

CONTENT WORDS

Nouns, main verbs, adjectives and adverbs are usually content words. Auxiliary verbs, pronouns, articles, and prepositions are usually grammatical words.

Example
'We flew over the mountains at dawn'.

Authentic Listening Skills Rhythm and stress

English is a stress-timed language. Rather tan giving each word and syllable equal stress and length, the rhythm of English varies and speakers tend to stress the most important (content) words. For multi-syllable words, only certain syllables are stressed, not the whole word. The less important words are not stressed and are crowded into a shorter space. When listening to fast native speech you won't hear every word. But you will hear the content words (or stressed syllable in term) and from these you will be able to construct the meaning of the sentence. For example:

You won't hear every word. But you will hear the content words or the stressed syllables in them.

KEY WORDS

Read the sentences (1–6). The words in bold are used in the TED Talk. First guess the meaning of the words. Then match the words with their definitions (a–f).

1 In the past, ADHD in children was not really a recognized condition. Now children are given help with it.

2 The Minister of Education's contention is that history lessons should focus on the country's own history.

3 Fewer university students study humanities than sciences.

4 Society tends to stigmatize those who fail in education and business.

5 His advice was benign, but it made me feel more stressed.

6 In the Nativity story, three kings come with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the new baby.

a a claim or argument

b academic subjects concerned with human culture, e.g. philosophy, history, languages

c kind, intending to do good or be helpful

d an aromatic resin from a tree used in perfumes

e an abbreviation for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

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f to label or mark something out as bad or disgraceful

Listen to the next part of the talk. Complete the extract with the content words.

I [1] _____ mean to [2] _____ that being [3]_____ is the [4]_____ thing as being [5]_____. What we [6]_____ know is, if you're [7]_____ [8]_____ to be [9] _____, you'll [10]_____ come up with anything [11]_____.

1 1.1 Watch the first part (0.00–5.25) of the edited version of the TED Talk. Complete the sentences using one word per space.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NYjGXWjkt48&list=PL3WS9F74-5_kG-qWjbt2hKLuJlv40NWtE

1 Ken Robinson believes creativity in education is as important as _____ .

2 The little girl never paid attention, but in this _____ she did.

3 The little boy in the play didn't say 'I bring you Frankincense.' He said 'Frank _____ this.'

4 Children are not _____ of being wrong.

5 Both companies and education systems _____ mistakes.

6 We grow out of _____ as we are educated and get older.

7 We don't think of Shakespeare being a _____ , but he was in someone's _____ class.

8 His son didn't want to move to Los Angeles away from his _____ . Ken Robinson and his wife were quite _____ about it.

Identifying Content Words

Read and choose the correct option

1. In the sentence *"Ken Robinson believes creativity in education is as important as literacy"*, which group contains ONLY content words?

a) believes, in, education, is

b) Robinson, believes, creativity, education, important, literacy

c) Ken, as, important, as, literacy

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2. In English rhythm, which types of words carry the main stress and meaning?

a) Nouns, main verbs, adjectives, and adverbs

b) Auxiliary verbs, pronouns, articles, and prepositions

c) Short words with only one syllable

3. In the sentence *"Society tends to stigmatize those who fail in education"*, the word stigmatize is a:

a) Grammatical word (auxiliary verb)

b) Content word (main verb)

c) Grammatical word (preposition)

4. Which of the following words from the text is a grammatical word (NOT a content word)?

a) benign

b) contention

c) with

5. When listening to fast English speech, native speakers usually stress:

a) Every single word equally

b) Only prepositions and articles

c) The content words (or their stressed syllables)

Using humour

People use humour in presentations for the same reason they use stories or strong images – as a way to connect and to help their audience relate to their argument. You don't have to use humour, but if you do use it, remember these points:

- Its purpose is to relax people. If you feel unnatural or nervous using it, then it probably won't be relaxing.
- It should illustrate your point and not distract from it.
- It should not offend any group or individual.
- It helps if the humour is based on a personal anecdote which others can easily relate to.
- It's a good idea to test any jokes on friends or colleagues before your presentation.

Question: What are the benefits of using humour in a talk? What could be the dangers?

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