

HAPPY MAPS

"A journey to work became one thing only; the shortest path"

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Daniele Quercia is interested in how people interact with their environment, both online and in the real world. He uses social media and large amounts of data to understand this relationship. Quercia wants to use this information to make our lives happier and more satisfying.

Quercia's idea worth spreading is that the fastest route may be efficient, but not always enjoyable. There are times when taking a different route can be more memorable and joyful.

1. The sentences below will help you learn words from the TEDx Talk. Read the sentences and guess the meanings of the words in bold. Match each word with its definition.

- a. People often feel a sense of **shame** after they have done something stupid or wrong.
- b. My **commute** to work usually takes an hour—even longer if there is a lot of traffic.
- c. The road is closed for repair so we have to take a **detour**.
- d. An effective team listens to everyone's idea and then tries to come to a **consensus**.
- e. Map apps on smartphones were real **game changers**. Not many people use paper maps anymore.
- f. There is not enough data to make a **definitive** conclusion, but we can make a very good guess.
- g. I could not **recall** the location of the office, so I used my map app.
- h. Following a big snowstorm, some motorists were **trapped** in their cars for hours.
- i. We interviewed a lot of people about the traffic problems and, slowly, a solution began to **emerge**.
- j. Always taking the quickest route may **rob** you of the chance to see the beautiful countryside.

1. _____ (n) broad agreement

2. _____ (n) events or items that change a situation dramatically

3. _____ (adj) be unable to escape

4. _____ (n) a longer and less direct route

5. _____ (adj) firm and final

6. _____ (v) take away

7. _____ (n) the daily trip to and from work or school

8. _____ (n) a bad feeling because of something you have done

9. _____ (v) remember

10. _____ (v) appear

2. Watch the talk again and check the sentences that best expresses the speaker's main idea.

- 1. Collecting personal data can improve maps.
- 2. Mobile mapping apps are likely to improve in the future.
- 3. The happy path is better than the most direct one.
- 4. You can make surprising discoveries by taking a different path.
- 5. The route from A to B is filled with emotion.