



## TED talks: SDGs worksheet 1 - Teacher's notes

### TED TALK 1 (2015) Michael Green

**Topic:** Global Issues

**Activity type:** Listening, speaking, video, jigsaw

**Level:** C1 +

**Time:** 45m – 1h

**Language focus:** Describing trends & changes; Vocabulary related to global issues.

**Related published material:** Headway Advanced, Unit 3

**Suggested procedures:** Two TED talks on the subject of Sustainable Development Goals.

- a. If you have space, the two worksheets can be done as a jigsaw by two groups in two separate classrooms. Allow one student in each group to control the video, pause and repeat as necessary.
- b. Flipped class: Divide the class into 2 groups. Each group watches a different talk and answers the questions. In next class, they summarise, compare and discuss.
- c. Do worksheet 1 (Michael Green) in class (it comes first chronologically and is more accessible) and then watch the second talk (Johan Rockström) at home in preparation for class discussion.

#### A. Before watching

- a. Explain that you are going to watch a TED talk about Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), established by the UN in 2015. Show the class the image below (or the ppt) and ask them to guess what the icons represent (answers in key)
- b. Play the video to check their answers
- c. Matching exercise to pre-teach some of the less frequent vocabulary (answers in key).

#### B. Listening (0'00" - 4'30")

- a. Play the video up to 4'30", pausing and repeating if necessary to allow students to note down answers to questions 1 & 2.
- b. Ask students to predict the answers to questions 3 a & b
- c. Continue to let students check answers
- d. Continue to end, pausing and repeating as necessary, to answer the rest of the questions 4 – 7.

#### C. Follow-up

If students have listened to both talks as a jigsaw listening, summarise to each other in groups.

Discuss the follow-up questions



Michael Green (2015):

*How can we make the world a better place by 2030?*

### A. Preparation

- a. In 2015, the UN defined 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to ensure the future of the planet. The 17 symbols in the image below represent the 17 goals. With your partner, decide what you think they represent. The first one has been done for you as an example



- b. Watch this short video to check your answers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5G0ndS3uRdo>

### KEY

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. = No poverty                            | 10. = Reduced inequalities                 |
| 2. = Zero hunger                           | 11. = Sustainable cities & communities     |
| 3. = Good health and well-being            | 12. = Responsible consumption & production |
| 4. = Quality education                     | 13. = Climate action                       |
| 5. = Gender equality                       | 14. = Life below water                     |
| 6. = Clean water and sanitation            | 15. = Life on land                         |
| 7. = Affordable and clean energy           | 16. = Peace, justice & strong institutions |
| 8. = Decent work & economic growth         | 17. = Partnerships for the goals           |
| 9. = Industry, innovation & infrastructure |  |



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### c. Vocabulary

#### Matching activity **KEY**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. doomsayers   | <i>a. pessimists</i>  |
| 2. suspend your disbelief                                     | <i>b. try to imagine something can happen</i>                               |
| 3. run/crunch the numbers                                     | <i>c. calculate</i>   |
| 4. business as usual  | <i>d. no change, do things the same way</i>                                 |
| 5. flagship target  | <i>e. most important goal</i>   |
| 6. benchmark (vb)   | <i>f. measure</i>   |
| 7. figure out   | <i>g. understand</i>  |
| 8. GDP  | <i>h. gross domestic product (wealth)</i>                                   |
| 9. forecast   | <i>i. prediction</i>  |
| 10. make headway  | <i>j. make progress</i>   |
| 11. hold somebody to a promise /<br>hold somebody accountable | <i>k. make sure somebody does what they<br/>said they were going to do.</i> |

### B. Listening

As you watch, answer these questions: **KEY**

1. What percentage of the world's population were living in poverty in 2015?  
a. 36%      b. 18%      c. **12%**

2. The Social Progress Index (SPI) asks 3 fundamental questions about a society. Give an example which illustrates each question:

Does everybody have.....?

- a. .. the basic needs for survival?  
e.g. .food, water, shelter, safety.....
- b. ...the building blocks for a better life?  
e.g. education, information, health, sustainable environment.....
- c. ...the opportunity to improve their lives?  
e.g. .rights, freedom of choice, freedom from discrimination, access  
to knowledge.....

Pause the video here (4'30")

3. The Social Progress Index uses 52 indicators to create a score out of 100.  
a. What do you predict is the highest-performing country, with a score  
of 88/100, in the world today? .....**Answer: Norway**.....



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- b. What do you predict is the lowest-performing country, with a score of 31/100, in the world today? .....**Answer: Central African Republic.**

Continue watching to see if you were correct.

4. According to US Dept. of Agriculture predictions, the world SPI index will increase from 61/100 in 2015 to ..... in 2030?
- 62.4/100**
  - 75/100
  - 88/100

5. GDP does not always equate to social progress.  
Name 3 countries which are underperforming (rich, but not achieving goals).

1. ...Russia..... 2. ...China..... 3. ...India.....

Name 3 countries which are overperforming (achieving a lot of goals relative to their GDP):

1...Costa Rica..... 2. ....Rwanda..... 3. ...New Zealand.....

6. This is important because it tells us that....
- ...we already have the .....solutions..... to many of the problems we are trying to solve
  - ...if we prioritize the .....well-being..... of people, then we can make a lot more progress than our .....GDP..... might expect.

7. What was the world's 'report card' grade in 2015?
- A+
  - B
  - C-**

### C. Follow-up

Prepare to summarise this talk to your partner:

What do you think were the most important points?

What did you find in common in your talks?

Your opinion

What would the *people's report card* score be for your country?

Are you a pessimist or an optimist about the world's future? Why?