

TED talks: Greta Thunberg



Greta Thunberg (2018):
The disarming case to act right now on climate change

Part 1. Preparation

A. Before you watch, look at these phrases extracted from the talk.

1. If it was true that humans were changing the climate, we wouldn't be talking about anything else.
2. Why should I be studying for a future that soon will be no more, *when no one is doing anything whatsoever to save that future?*
3. We've had 30 years of pep talking and selling positive ideas.
4. People usually start talking about hope: solar panels, wind power, circular economy and so on. *But I'm not going to do that.*
5. If I have children or grandchildren, maybe they will spend that day (my 75th birthday) with me.
6. When school started in August this year, I decided that this was enough. I sat myself down on the ground outside the Swedish parliament.

B. Categorise each phrase as...

- | | |
|---|---|
| a) Unreal/hypothetical | b) Future prediction |
| c) Future intention | d) Past events (we know when it happened) |
| e) Past events (we don't know exactly when it happened) | f) Something happening at the moment |

Which *verb tenses* are used to express these concepts?

Part 2. Prediction

A. Which of these numbers do you think will complete the following sentences.

0	1.5	2	6	8	11	12	15
100	200	1,000	2103	10,000	100 million		

1. Greta Thunberg first heard about climate change when she was years old.
2. When she was she fell into depression (and) stopped talking or eating.



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3. Rich countries like Sweden need to start reducing emissions by at least% every year to stay below a degree warming target.
4. Aiming for a degree warming target would significantly reduce the climate impact.
5. We are in the midst of theth mass extinction.
6. Up to species are going extinct every single day.
7. The extinction rate is today between and times higher than what is seen as normal.
8. Climate equity: The Paris agreement states that rich countries need to get down to emissions within 6 to years, so people in poorer countries have a chance to heighten their standard of living (by building) roads, schools, hospitals, clean drinking water, electricity and so on.
9. If I live to be, I will be alive in the year
10. Today, we use barrels of oil every single day.

B. Now watch and check your answers to part 2.

Part 3. After watching

A. Can you remember the answers to these questions?

1. What are the 'typical' things you are asked to do to help combat climate change?
2. Why was Greta so surprised when she first learned about climate change?
3. What is Greta's definition of selective mutism?
4. How does she describe the characteristics of people 'on the spectrum' (with autism)?
5. What paradox does she mention about Green politicians and climate scientists?

B. Now watch again if necessary and check your answers.

Part 4. Discussion

Do you agree with these statements by Greta? Compare your ideas in pairs or small groups.

- 'The one thing we need more than hope is action'.
- 'Everything needs to change and it has to start today'. 'We can't save the world by playing by the rules'.
- 'The climate crisis has already been solved. We already have all the facts and solutions'.
- 'How can we expect countries like India or Nigeria to care about the climate crisis if we, who have everything, don't care even a second about it?'