

## Exploring the talk of TEDtalks for Classroom Use

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## Listening

Top Down / Bottom Up

Skill / Strategy  
(Vandergrift & Goh, 2012)

Product / Process  
(Field, 2009)

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Students need to learn skills and strategies to listen more effectively in an L2 ...

... As teachers of L2 listening, we also need to learn to listen in a new way.

## Listen for...

1. **WHAT** is said
2. **HOW** it's said
3. **What is NOT** said (directly)

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## TED Talks

www.ted.com

- TED: Ideas Worth Spreading
- Conferences “... bring together the world's most fascinating thinkers and doers to give the talk of their lives (in 18 minutes or less).”
- Ted.com “make the best talks and performances from TED ... available to the world.”
  - Free under a Creative Commons License.
  - Subtitled in English and other languages.

<http://www.ted.com/pages/about>

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## Matt Cutts: Try something new for 30 days



[http://www.ted.com/talks/matt\\_cutts\\_try\\_something\\_new\\_for\\_30\\_days.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/matt_cutts_try_something_new_for_30_days.html)

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Listen for WHAT is said...

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## Informational Content

### MAIN IDEAS

- Try something new for 30 days
  - It makes time more memorable
  - Self-confidence grew
  - You can do anything for 30 days
  - It's easier to sustain small changes

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## Informational Content

### MAIN IDEAS & DETAILS

- Do something new for 30 days
  - It makes time more memorable
    - Took a picture every day
  - His self-confidence grew
    - Biked to work (then climbed Kilimanjaro)
- You can do anything for 30 days
  - Wrote a novel
- Small changes are more sustainable
  - Stopped eating sugar (then started again)

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Don't stop here!!!

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## Vocabulary

- Vocabulary for comprehension
  - 95% to 98% known words (Nation 2001)
- Vocabulary difficulty frequency
  - How frequent is a word in general?
  - How frequent is the word in this text?

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## Complete Lexical Tutor

<http://www.lextutor.ca> > Vocabprofile

Tom Cobb, Université du Québec à Montréal

The screenshot shows the 'Complete Lexical Tutor' website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Learners', 'Researchers', and 'Teachers' sections. The 'Vocabprofile' tool is circled in green. Below the navigation, there are several tool icons and links, including 'Familiarizer', 'Frequency', 'Text\_Lex\_Compare', 'RaNdOmCiTy', 'KeyWords\_v2', and 'Morphology'. The footer includes the University of Quebec logo and the text 'To the free dissemination of knowledge'.

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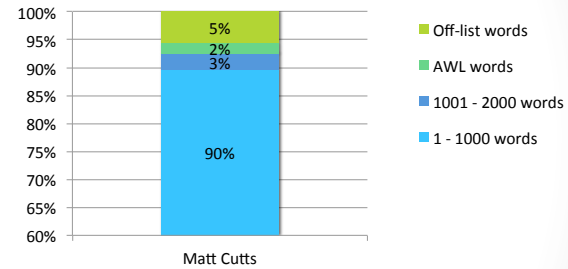
## Vocabulary Analysis

- Complete Lexical Tutor

Frequency List	Types	Percent
1 - 1000 words	429	89.63%
1001 - 2000 words	15	2.85%
Academic Word List words	10	2.03%
Off-list words	27	5.49%

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## Comparative Vocabulary Profile



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## Vocabulary List

- 1001 - 2000: confidence desk exactly fun habit scratch self stick stuck sugar thanks
- AWL: challenge challenges computer guarantee philosopher sustainable
- Off-list: africa american awful bikes crazy deprived dwelling figured footsteps guy hiking hodgman john kilimanjaro memorable morgan nerd novel novelist rut spurlock subtract ted

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## Idiomatic & Interesting Words

- stuck in a rut → more likely to stick
- from scratch
- give it a shot
- It turns out
- I ended up *hiking up Mt. Kilimanjaro*
- desk-dwelling computer nerd
- the next great American novel

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Listen for HOW it's said...

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## Discourse Structure

### Genre

- Lecture
  - TEDtalk
    - Invited speakers – “remarkable people” who are “the world's most innovative and influential speakers.”
    - Performances that “inform and inspire, surprise and delight”
    - 18 minute limit
    - Focus on one “best idea
    - Highly scripted and rehearsed
    - Often very personal and technical at the same time

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## Discourse Structure

- Opener
  - State the idea
- Body
  - Reasons to the support idea
    - Examples
- Closer
  - Recommend the idea

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## Opener

- Opener – The personal story
  - *A few years ago, I felt like I was stuck in a rut, so I decided to follow in the footsteps of the great American philosopher, Morgan Spurlock, and try something new for 30 days.*

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## Personal Experience Openers

**Bahia Shehab: A thousand times no**

- *Two years ago, I was invited as an artist to participate in an exhibition commemorating 100 years of Islamic art in Europe...*

**Sarah Parcak: Archeology from space**

- *When I was a child growing up in Maine, one of my favorite things to do was to look for sand dollars on the seashores of Maine...*

**Ludwick Marishane: A bath without water**

- *So I grew up in Limpopo, on the border of Limpopo and Mpumalanga, a little town called Motetema...*

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## Organizational Discourse Markers

- *There's a few things I learned ...*
  - *The first was ...*
  - *I also noticed that ...*
  - *I also figured out that ...*
- *So here's one last thing I'd like to mention.*
  - *I learned that ...*

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## Verb Tense

- *There's a few things I learned while doing these 30-day challenges. The first was, instead of the months flying by, forgotten, the time was much more memorable. This was part of a challenge I did to take a picture every day for a month.*
- *There's nothing wrong with big, crazy challenges. In fact, they're a ton of fun. But they're less likely to stick.*
- *Have you ever wanted to write a novel?*
- *I would never have been that adventurous before I started my 30-day challenges.*

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## Stance Markers

Speaker opinion or attitude:

	Certainty	Likelihood	Attitude
Adverb	<i>definitely</i>	<i>probably</i>	<i>amazingly</i>
Verb + that-clause	<i>We know that...</i>	<i>We believe that...</i>	<i>We hope that...</i>
Adjective + that-clause	<i>We're confident that...</i>	<i>It's doubtful that...</i>	<i>I'm shocked that...</i>

(adapted from Biber 2006)

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## Stance Markers

### Certainty

- *when I made small, sustainable changes, things I could keep doing, they were more likely to stick.*

**Directive** = you should do this

- *why not think about something you have always wanted to try and give it a shot for the next 30 days.*

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## Stance Markers

### Contrary to expectation

- *The idea is actually pretty simple.*
- *It turns out, 30 days is just about the right amount of time to add a new habit or subtract a habit.*
- *It turns out, all you have to do is write 1,667 words a day for a month.*
- *There's nothing wrong with big, crazy challenges. In fact, they're a ton of fun.*

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## Rhetorical Questions

- *Have you ever wanted to write a novel?*
- *Now is my book the next great American novel?*
- *What are you waiting for?*

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## Asides

- *By the way, the secret is not to go to sleep until you've written your words for the day. You might be sleep-deprived, but you'll finish your novel.*

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## Pronunciation

- Intonation and pitch
- Rate of speech
- Emphasis
- Contractions/reductions

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## Intonation Patterns

- Finality
- Uncertainty
- Emotion
  - Excitement
  - Boredom
  - Surprise
- Parenthetical ideas

(Celce-Murcia 2010)

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## Speech Rate and Emphasis

Changes in speed and emphasis

- *The first was, instead of the months flying by, forgotten, the time was **much more memorable.***

Unusual intonation patterns

- *Now is my book the next great American novel? **No. I wrote it in a month. It's awful.***

Unstressed phrases

- *I also noticed that as I **started to do** more and harder 30-day challenges ...*

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Listen for what is NOT said  
(directly)...

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## Background Information

### Context

- TED Conference

### Speaker Identity

- “Matt Cutts is an engineer at Google, where he fights linkspam and helps webmasters understand how search works.”
- “desk-dwelling computer nerd”

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## Background Information

### References

- Morgan Spurlock, John Hodgeman
- Mt. Kilimanjaro

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## Implied Meaning

The listener must infer a speaker’s indirectly stated meaning.

- Word-based inference
  - Word choice and phrasing
- Pronunciation-based inference
  - Pronunciation and delivery
- Gesture-based inference
  - Facial expression, gestures, body language

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## Implied Meaning

- *I learned that when I made small, sustainable changes, things I could keep doing, they were more likely to stick. There's nothing wrong with big, crazy challenges. In fact, they're a ton of fun. But they're less likely to stick.*
- Matt Cutts thinks it’s better to make changes that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. stick
  - b. don't stick

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## Implied Meaning

- *Now is my book the next great American novel? No. I wrote it in a month. It's awful. But for the rest of my life, if I meet John Hodgman at a TED party, I don't have to say, "I'm a computer scientist." No, no, if I want to, I can say, "I'm a novelist."*
- Matt Cutts is \_\_\_\_\_ his novel.
  - a. embarrassed about
  - b. proud of

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## Listen for...

1. **WHAT is said:**
  - Informational content
  - Vocabulary
2. **HOW it's said:**
  - Discourse structure
  - Pronunciation
3. **What is NOT said (directly):**
  - Background information
  - Implied meaning



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