

## Listening Guide for a TED Talk

- Created by Joel Pope

**TED Talk:** [Grit: The power of passion and perseverance](#)

**Speaker:** Angela Lee Duckworth

**Level:** C1-C2 Level (Advanced)

**Age:** High School, University, Adult

*Can be used by all students, but most beneficial for aspiring teachers.*

### Pre-Listening Discussion

What factors do you think allow students to succeed in school?

The title of the talk is 'Grit: The power of passion and perseverance'. What does this mean to you?

### Listening for Overall Message

Listen to the talk one time.

Discussion Question:

What were some key takeaways?

What did you learn?

### Listening for Detail

Take two minutes to read through the questions in depth.

Then watch the TED Talk and answer the questions.

After watching, allow one minute to finish writing any answers and prepare for details you will need to listen for the second time. Look at the inference questions before watching for the second time also.

Question	Answer
What did the speaker do when she was 27 years old?	

What caught the speaker's attention about the difference between the best and worst performing students in her class?	
What did the speaker think could happen if each of her students worked hard and long enough?	
The speaker realised that there might be more to doing well in school and life than your ability to work quickly and easily. What did this lead her to do?	
What was the same about what the speaker was researching at West Point Military Academy, at the National Spelling Bee, with Rookie Teachers working in tough neighbourhoods, and at private companies?	
From the speaker's research, what stood out as the one key predictor of success?	
What is shocking for the speaker about grit?	
What does the speaker say is the relationship between talent and grit?	
What is the best idea the speaker has heard about building grit in kids?	
What is one detail about growth mindset that the speaker shares?	

### Inference Questions

Before watching for the second time take one minute to read through the inference questions. You only need to think about these when you watch.

Watch the talk a second time, completing your questions from the previous section and beginning to think about the answers to these.

There will be time after to complete these inference questions.

(1) What do you think are two key messages the reader wants you to take away from the talk?

(2) a) In your own words, describe what grit is?

b) Why do you think grit might be an important measure of success?

(3) What do you think the speaker will be focusing on in her career in the months and years following this TED talk? Why?

(4) What do you think the speaker means in her final sentence when she says, “We need to be gritty about getting our kids grittier”?

#### Post-Listening Discussion Questions

What are your own takeaways from this talk? What have you learnt?  
How might you use what you have learnt from this talk in the future?