Growth and development

BACKGROUND

1 You are going to watch an edited version of a TED Talk by Hans Rosling called Global population growth, box by box. Read the text about the speaker and the talk. Then work in pairs and discuss the questions.

1 What kind of data do you think Hans Rosling’s presentations usually deal with?
2 Do you know what the world population is today? What do you think it was 50 years ago? And in 2050? What do you think it will be in 2080?
3 What are the problems caused by dramatic population growth?

TED TALKS

HANS ROSLING is a professor of International Health at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden. He co-founded Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) Sweden. He has become famous for the creative way he presents data and statistics about global health and economic development. Hans Rosling’s idea worth spreading is that if we want to manage population growth, we must raise the income of the world’s poorest billion people.
KEY WORDS

2 Read the sentences (1–6). The words in bold are used in the TED Talk. First guess the meaning of the words. Then match the words with their definitions (a–f).

1 The developing world and the industrial world are terms for two types of economy.
2 In many countries, there’s an enormous gap between the rich and the poor.
3 My parents’ aspiration was to buy their own home.
4 Investors are usually keen to put money into companies in emerging economies.
5 Child survival improves when countries invest in primary health care.
6 Spending more money than you earn is not sustainable — eventually you will have no money.

da able to be kept at a certain level
b the percentage of children who live beyond the age of five years
c countries with low levels of technological or economic success
d countries whose economic activity is growing quickly
e a strong desire to achieve something
f a difference

AUTHENTIC LISTENING SKILLS Focused listening

When you have some advance information about what a speaker is going to talk about, you can form ideas about what you think you will hear. This can help you to focus on the content of the talk when you listen and check if your ideas are included or not. The main aim of this skill is not to correctly predict what the speaker says, but to help you to focus your listening on the main ideas.

3a A sk. Work in pairs. Look at the Authentic listening skills box. Based on the information in Exercises 1 and 2, decide what aspect of world population Hans Rosling is going to talk about. Then listen to the extracts from the TED Talk. What does he say about this issue?

3b A sk. Listen again. Complete the extracts.

1 I still remember the day in school when our teacher told us that the world population had become __________ billion people, and that was in 1960.
2 And I’m going to talk now about how world population has __________ from that year and into the future.
3 The world population has __________ since I went to school.
3.1 Global population growth, box by box

TED TALKS

1 Watch the edited version of the TED Talk. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1 Each of Hans Rosling's boxes represents one billion people.
2 In 1960, there were three billion people in the industrialized world.
3 Hans Rosling uses the space between the green boxes and the blue box to represent the gap between rich and poor countries.
4 Hans Rosling states that by 2010, the difference between very rich and very poor countries is much bigger than it was in 1960.
5 According to Hans Rosling, one of the most significant changes since 1960 was better child survival rates.
6 Hans Rosling believes that the "old West" has no role in the modern world.

2 Watch the first part of the talk (0.00-4.25) again. Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

1 Hans Rosling uses the toys to represent the growing aspirations / family sizes of people in the different economies.
2 Hans Rosling thinks that the terms "the West" and "the developing world" are still / no longer relevant.
3 Since 1960, the most populated / successful "developing countries" have become "emerging economies".
4 The poorest two billion people are not as poor / just as poor as they were in 1960.
3 Watch the second part of the talk (4.25–8.18) again. Complete the sentences.

1 On the graph, each bubble represents a _____________.
2 The graph shows the relationship between family size and ____________ survival.
3 The graph shows how when more children survive, women start to have fewer _____________.
4 Even with a child survival rate of 70 to 80 per cent, the population will ____________ in one generation.

4 Complete the summary of Hans Rosling’s message with the sentence endings (a–c). Then watch the third part of the talk again (6.18 to the end) and check your answers.

Hans Rosling’s data show that the richest countries in the world have excellent child survival and therefore 1 ___________. He believes that the way to slow down population growth is 2 ___________. He also thinks that green technology and other investments 3 ___________.

- a can achieve this
- b low population growth
- c to reduce poverty in the poorest parts of the world

5 Work in pairs. Have the average family size and standard of living changed in the last 50 years in your country?

VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

6 Watch the clips from the TED Talk. Choose the correct meaning of the words.

7 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

1 Do you know anyone who is an optimist? What are they like?
2 Do you know anyone who is a pessimist? What are they like?
3 What’s the most remote place you’ve ever been to?

CRITICAL THINKING Supporting the main argument

8 Hans Rosling used a graph to support his argument that improving child survival to 90 per cent will slow down population growth. Which of the items in the list did the graph show? How successful do you think this graph was in supporting Hans Rosling’s argument?

- observable facts
- personal experience
- published research
- statistical data

9 Work in pairs. Read these comments* about the TED Talk. Underline the argument in each comment. Circle the part of the comment that supports the argument. Which comment(s) do you find more convincing? Why?

Viewers’ comments

- Austin – I think that saving children’s lives just means more mouths to feed, more poverty, more children in the next generation – I’ve traveled a lot and seen the situation for myself.

- Andy – That’s very harsh! There have been plenty of studies showing exactly the opposite is true. Do a web search on UNICEF and you’ll see for yourself.

- Barbara – Of course the population can double in a generation if couples have six children and four survive – that’s basic maths. Rosling’s point is that 60 per cent child survival is the critical figure and he’s based that on what’s been happening in emerging economies.

*The comments were created for this activity.

PRESENTATION SKILLS Using props

Props are objects which can make a presentation more memorable and illustrate your ideas. Your props should be appropriate to the content of your talk as well as being:

- easy for the audience to understand
- interesting enough to hold the audience’s attention
- unusual enough to help your audience to remember your talk

10 Look at the Presentation tips box. Then watch the clip from the TED Talk and say which criteria Hans Rosling’s props meet.

11 Work in pairs. Discuss recent trends involving one of these areas. What props could you use to show the trends? Write a few sentences to explain the trend and practise presenting your ideas.

- communication
- food
- games
- money

12 Work with a new partner. Take turns to present your ideas. How effective are your partner’s props?