

---

## **Why work doesn't happen at work**

[listening test questions]

**Author:** Jason Fried

**Date:** Oct 2010

**Time:** (15:21)

**Location:** TED TALKS

**Level:** \*\*\*\* [B1/B2]

**Link:** [https://www.ted.com/talks/jason\\_fried\\_why\\_work\\_doesn\\_t\\_happen\\_at\\_work](https://www.ted.com/talks/jason_fried_why_work_doesn_t_happen_at_work)

Check these words before listening:

### **Key vocabulary**

1. Non-profit companies / charities
2. Perfectly reasonable
3. Location – porches / deck / basement
4. Cuisinart (google this)
5. A conference call
6. uninterrupted time
7. long stretches
8. To stick around
9. Phenomenon
10. Phase-based, or stage-based
11. To cite
12. Ridiculous
13. Involuntary
14. Poisonous / toxic
15. Spontaneous
16. Productivity
17. To remedy
18. Well-equipped
19. Casual Friday
20. To bother someone
21. Incredibly valuable
22. Erase it
23. To think about laying off a little bit,
24. It'll all pay off in the end

**Copyright:** These materials are photocopiable but please leave all logos and web addresses on handouts. Please don't post these materials onto the web. Thank you

# Student

## TED Talks Test Questions

**Time:** *Approximately 1- 1:30 hours*

### 1. Read the title

- Try to predict the content of lecture
- Write down key terms / ideas
- Check key vocabulary using a dictionary

Try to listen ONLY two times

### Three types of lesson

#### **Lesson#1:** [hard]

1. Listen once – take notes
2. Give 5 minutes to tidy notes
3. Listen again and add to notes (use a different **colour** pen).
4. Answer questions – set 20-25 minutes to answer.
5. Check answers
6. Listen again to check answers

#### **Lesson #2:** [medium]

1. Listen once – take notes.
2. Answer questions: 10-15 minutes
3. Listen again – answer the questions as they listen
4. Give yourself 10 minutes to tidy answers. Then check answers
5. Listen again to check answers

#### **Lesson #3:** [easier]

1. Read questions – highlight key terms
2. listen once and answer questions
3. 5 minutes to tidy notes
4. Listen again answer missed question
5. 5-10 minutes to tidy answers. Then check answers
6. Listen again to check answers

# Teacher

## TED Talks comprehension questions

### Lesson Plan

**Aim:** to develop the students' ability to listen to a 10 min+ lecture, to take notes and then use those notes to answer a range of test type questions.

**Lesson Time:** Approximately 1:30-2:00 hours

### Lesson Plan

#### 1. Lead in

- Ask Students to discuss the 'title' and predict the content of lecture
- Ask students to write down key terms / language from discussion
- Feed in / check key vocabulary

#### Three types of lesson

##### **Lesson#1:** [hard]

1. Students listen once – take notes
2. Give 5 minutes to tidy notes
3. Listen again and add to notes (use a different colour pen).
4. Give out questions – set 20-25 minutes to answer.
5. Feedback answers (give out answers or go through on board)

##### **Lesson #2:** [medium]

1. Students listen once – take notes.
2. Give out questions: Set 15 minutes for students to answer questions from notes
3. Listen again – students answer the questions as they listen
4. Give extra 10 minutes to consolidate answers
5. Feedback answers (give out answers or go through on board)

##### **Lesson #3:** [easy]

1. Give out questions - students have 10 minutes to look at questions
2. Students listen and answer questions
3. Give 5 minutes to tidy notes
4. Students listen again – check answers and answer questions missed
5. 5-10 minutes to tidy answers
6. Feedback answers (give out answers or go through on board)

## Why work doesn't happen at work

TED TALK: Jason Fried [Oct 2010. 15:21]

### 1. Gap fill - [Put a suitable word in the space]

What do companies do?

i. they buy or _____ a building
ii. they _____ this space with stuff, such as furniture, computers, software
iii. they expect employees to come to that _____ everyday

\_\_\_ / 3

### 2. Terms

Where do people actually get work done?

Place	Examples
<b><u>1. Place</u></b>	i. <i>porch</i>
	ii.
	iii.
	iv.
	v.
<b>2. _____</b>	i. <i>train</i>
	ii.
	iii.
<b>3. _____</b>	i. <i>Early in the morning</i>
	ii.
	iii.

\_\_\_ / 10

### 3. Short answer

What do people never say when asked where they get work done?

i.
----

\_\_\_ / 1

#### 4. Gap fill - [Put a suitable word in the space – first letter is provided]

What's really happening at work?

i. People go to work and they're basically trading in their work day for a series of 'w_____ m_____'.  
ii. You have 15 minutes here, 30 minutes there, then lunch, then a question, then you something else to do. You don't get m_____ work done, you just do t_____.

\_\_\_ / 4

#### 5. True / false / NG

What's really happening at work?

T/F/NG

a. Creative people need long stretches of uninterrupted time	
b. Some people can be creative in 15 minute slots	
c. A minority of people have long stretches of uninterrupted time	
d. People choose to work at home because of no distractions	
e. Most people don't like to work at weekends	

\_\_\_ / 5

#### 6. Short answer

How is sleep connected to work?

i.
----

\_\_\_ / 1

#### 7. Reasons

What do employers cite as distractions when working from home?

i.	TV
ii.	
iii.	
Managers say:	'If I can't see the person, how _____?'

\_\_\_ / 3

## 8 Short Answers

What are the 3 social media sites that bosses / managers say are distracting?

i.	
ii.	
iii.	
Lecturer Says:	'These social media sites are modern day s _____ b _____', [2 points]

\_\_\_ / 5

## 9. Short Answers

According to the speaker, the real problems in an office are:

i.	
ii.	

\_\_\_ / 2

## 10. Gap Fill

In the opinion of the speaker. What is a manager's job?

i. Managers are basically people whose job is to i _____ people
---

\_\_\_ / 1

## 11. Key terms

In the opinion of the speaker. What 3 negative adjectives does he use to describe meetings?

i.	<i>terrible</i>
ii.	
iii.	

\_\_\_ / 2

## 12. Summary - [Put a suitable word in the space – first letter is provided]

So the problem with meetings is that when you call a meeting of 10 people, what are the

i. c \_\_\_\_\_ that those 10 people are ready to stop? Meetings are incredibly expensive to an organisation and generally, one meeting just ii. l \_\_\_\_\_ to another meeting. Companies think a one-hour meeting is one-hour but if there is ten people a one-hour meeting is actually iii. t \_\_\_\_\_ hours of iv. p \_\_\_\_\_ lost.

\_\_\_ / 4

### 13. Open answers

What are the three key solutions? Add the examples or development of the idea

Solution	Development / examples
1. No Talk Thursday	i. _____ _____ _____
<b>Quote:</b> <i>Give someone ii. _____ hours of interrupted time, it's the best iii. _____ you can give</i>	
2. iv. _____	<i>Use email / instant messenger / they are distracting at a time of your choice</i>
<b>Quote:</b> <i>'You can quit the email app; you can't v. _____ your boss'</i>	
3. vi. _____	vii. _____ _____ _____
<b>Quote:</b> <i>'You'll find that everything will be just viii. _____'</i>	

\_\_\_ / 8

### 14. Conclusion – [Put a suitable word in the space – first letter is provided]

I hope that some of these ideas were at least **p**\_\_\_\_\_ enough for managers and bosses who are in charge of other people, to think about **l**\_\_\_\_\_ off a little bit, and giving people more time to get work done. I think it'll all **p**\_\_\_\_\_ off in the end.

\_\_\_ / 3

Overall score: \_\_\_ / 52

## Why work doesn't happen at work **ANSWERS**

### 1. Gap fill

What do companies do?

i. they buy or <u>rent</u> a building
ii. they <u>fill</u> this space with stuff, such as furniture, computers, software
iii. they expect employees to come to that <u>location</u> everyday

\_\_\_ / 3

### 2. Terms

Where do people actually get work done?

Place	Examples
<b><u>1. Place</u></b>	i. <i>porch</i>
	ii. <i>the deck</i>
	iii. <i>kitchen</i>
	iv. <i>extra room</i>
	v. <i>The basement / Coffee shop / the library</i>
<b><u>2. Moving object</u></b>	i. <i>train</i>
	ii. <i>plane</i>
	iii. <i>car</i>
<b><u>3. Time</u></b>	i. <i>Early in the morning</i>
	ii. <i>Late at night</i>
	iii. <i>On / at the weekends</i>

\_\_\_ / 10

### 3. Short answer

What do people never say when asked where they get work done?

i. the office
---------------

\_\_\_ / 1



#### 4. Gap fill

What's really happening at work?

i. People go to work and they're basically trading in their work day for a series of '**work moments**'.

ii. You have 15 minutes here, 30 minutes there, then lunch, then a question, then you have something else to do. You don't get **meaningful** work done, you just do **tasks**.

\_\_\_ / 4

#### 5. True / false / NG

What's really happening at work?

T/F/NG

f. Creative people need long stretches of uninterrupted time	<b>T</b>
g. Some people can be creative in 15 minute slots	<b>NG</b>
h. A minority of people have long stretches of uninterrupted time [very few people actually get...]	<b>T</b>
i. People choose to work at home because of no distractions	<b>T</b>
j. Most people don't like to work at weekends	<b>NG</b>

\_\_\_ / 5

#### 6. Short answer

How is sleep connected to work?

i. Sleep and work are phase-based, or stage-based. If interrupted, you don't sleep well.

\_\_\_ / 1

#### 7. Reasons

What do employers cite as distractions when working from home?

i.	<b>TV</b>
ii.	Go for a walk
iii.	Couch / whatever you want to do
Managers say:	'If I can't see the person, how <b>do I know they are working?</b> '

\_\_\_ / 3

## 8 Short Answers

What are the 3 social media sites that bosses / managers say are distracting?

i.	Facebook
ii.	Twitter
iii.	YouTube
Lecturer Says:	'These social media sites are modern day <b>smoke breaks</b> ' [2 points]

\_\_\_ / 5

## 9. Short Answers

According to the speaker, the real problems in an office are:

i.	managers
ii.	meetings

\_\_\_ / 2

## 10. Gap Fill

In the opinion of the speaker. What is a manager's job?

i. Managers are basically people whose job is to <b>interrupt</b> people
--

\_\_\_ / 1

## 11. Key terms

In the opinion of the speaker. What 3 negative adjectives does he use to describe meetings?

i.	<i>terrible</i>
ii.	toxic
iii.	Poisonous

\_\_\_ / 2

## 12. Summary

Fill in the gaps with a suitable word

So the problem with meetings is that when you call a meeting of 10 people, what are the i. **chances** that those 10 people are ready to stop? Meetings are incredibly expensive to an organisation and generally, one meeting just ii. **leads** into another meeting. Companies think a one-hour meeting is one-hour but if there is ten people a one-hour meeting is actually iii. **10 / ten** hours of iv. **productivity** taken.

\_\_\_ / 4

### 13. Open answers

What are the three key solutions? Add the examples or development of the idea

Solution	Development / examples
1. No Talk Thursday	i. First Thursday of every month /just the afternoon / just silence
<b>Quote:</b> <i>Give someone ii. <u>4 / four</u> hours of interrupted time, it's is the best iii. <u>gift</u> you can give</i>	
2. iv. <u>Passive models of communication</u> [must be 'passive models' not email or I.M]	Use email / instant messenger / they are distracting at a time of your choice
<b>Quote:</b> <i>You can quit the email app; you can't v. <u>quit</u> your boss</i>	
3. vi. <u>Cancel the next meeting</u>	vii. Don't move it / erase it from your memory / it's gone
<b>Quote:</b> <i>You'll find that everything will be just viii. <u>fine</u></i>	

\_\_\_ / 8

### 14. Conclusion – gap fill

I hope that some of these ideas were at least provocative enough for managers and bosses who are in charge of other people, to think about laying off a little bit, and giving people more time to get work done. I think it'll all pay off in the end.

\_\_\_ / 3

Overall score: \_\_\_ / 52