

ING2 GLOBAL ISSUES

TED Talk: Andrew Dent: To eliminate waste, we need to discover thrift¹

¹**Thrift:** the practice of spending money carefully so that you do not waste any

First viewing

Watch the talk once, without subtitles, and answer the questions below.

1. Give examples of Andrew's grandmother's thrift.
2. Andrew gives examples of how companies are getting smart at thrifting. Which sectors does he mention?
3. What examples does he give of thrift in nature?

Second viewing

Watch the talk again, with subtitles, and answer the questions.

1. Apart from Andrew's grandmother, who else is good at thrift?
2. When we throw things away, where do they go?
3. Approximately how much material goes there each year?
4. About how much of the entire car actually gets used again?
5. What about battery-powered cars?
6. How much of all US landfill waste comes from architecture?
7. Andrew shows a slide with a picture of bricks. What are they made of?
8. What does the company Land Detector do?
9. What is the advantage of changing from a cut and sew process to a knitting process in shoe manufacturing?
10. What does digital manufacturing allow?
11. How can nanocellulose be used?
12. Why is it difficult to create spider silk naturally?
13. How is it possible to get around this problem?
14. What's the problem with repeatedly recycling plastic?
15. How does adding enzymes to plastic solve this problem?

Language work

Choose the correct answer to complete these extracts from the talk.

1. My grandmother never bought any string. Basically, she ____string.
 - a) is collecting
 - b) would collect
 - c) have collected
 - d) did collect

2. You use what you need, you don't actually purchase anything, so you ____ money.
 - a) lose
 - b) win
 - c) gain
 - d) save

3. When you want to throw ____ a cardboard box, the average kid will say "Don't!"
 - a) in
 - b) up
 - c) out
 - d) of

4. It's the idea of ____ changing the way we think about waste.
 - a) completely
 - b) completed
 - c) complete
 - d) completion

5. What I ____ over the last couple of decades is how companies are getting smart at thrifting.
 - a) tracked
 - b) am tracking
 - c) have been tracking
 - d) track

6. Digital manufacturing is allowing us to do this _____.
 - a) more effective
 - b) more effectively
 - c) most effective
 - d) effectiver

7. By using this solution, they ____ the number of steps from seven to one.
 - a) put off
 - b) increased
 - c) fell
 - d) cut down

8. Metal and glass____ as many times as you like.
 - a) can be recycled
 - b) can recycling
 - c) can recycled
 - d) can be recycling

9. In conclusion, I just want to ____ about how the product you make could be used as a second, third or fourth life.
- a) get you think
 - b) have you think
 - c) having you think
 - d) getting you think

https://www.ted.com/talks/andrew_dent_to_eliminate_waste_we_need_to_rediscover_thrift/transcript#t-147267

Read the transcript and check any words you don't know.

Speaking

Discuss the following questions

1. Are you thrifty? If so, give examples of your thrift. If not, explain why this is.
2. Which examples of thrift in the talk do you think are the most effective? will make the most difference? will be difficult to implement? Explain your answers.
3. Do you know of any other examples of thrift in companies or in nature?