

Albert Einstein – A Voice for Imagination

Upper-intermediate (B2–C1)



WARM-UP DISCUSSION

Part 1. Discuss the questions below.

1. When you were a child, what kind of things made you curious?
2. Do you prefer learning by doing, reading, or asking questions? Why?
3. Who is one person (famous or not) you think differently because of?

Part 2. Read the quotes from Albert Einstein and discuss the questions.

"Imagination is more important than knowledge."

"I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious."

"If you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough."

1. Which quote feels true about your learning style?
2. Which one challenges the way you think?
3. Which one do you wish more people believed?

READING TEXT

Part 1. Read the following text.

Albert Einstein is often described as a genius, but his story is far more human than people think. He struggled in school, found it difficult to follow strict rules, and was rejected from early academic jobs. After university, he worked quietly in a patent office, checking other people's inventions. This turned out to be the perfect place for him. With no pressure and plenty of thinking time, he developed ideas that later changed science forever.

Einstein was known for more than physics. He cared deeply about peace, fairness, and human rights. He spoke openly against racism, supported refugees, and used his voice to stand up for justice. People admired his curiosity, kindness, and ability to look at problems from unusual angles. For Einstein, imagination wasn't a luxury — it was how progress began.

Part 2. Discuss the questions below based on the text.

1. What part of Einstein's early life do you relate to?
2. Why do you think working outside academia helped him think differently?
3. Which qualities from the text feel important for life today?
4. Do you think curiosity can be "trained"? How?

VOCABULARY & SPEAKING

Part 1. Read the mini-dialogues. What do the bold expressions mean in your own words?

1. "Einstein supported many causes that fought **racial injustice**."
2. "He wasn't afraid to **question authority** when something felt wrong."
3. "People described him as **passionately curious** even in old age."
4. "He often used his platform to **advocate for peace** around the world."
5. "His friends said he loved to **think differently** and explore unusual ideas."

Part 2. Complete the sentences below with your own ideas.

- A moment in history that shows **racial injustice** is...
- A time I needed to **question authority** was...
- Something I feel **passionately curious** about today is...
- A public figure who **advocates for peace** is...
- A time when I had to **think differently** to solve a problem was...

VIDEO ACTIVITY

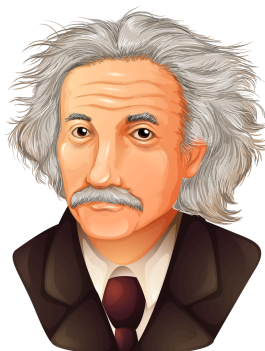
Part 1. You're going to watch a video about Albert Einstein. Before watching, discuss the following questions.

1. What do you already know about him?
2. What do you expect from someone often called "the greatest mind of the century"?

Part 2. Watch the video. What three adjectives best describe him?

Part 3. Watch the video again and discuss the questions below.

1. Which job did Einstein do before becoming famous?
2. How did he become instantly world-famous in 1919?
3. Why did he leave Germany in the 1930s?
4. What scientific idea won him the Nobel Prize?
5. What is one thing from the video you did not know before?



SPEAKING

Part 1. Read the statements below. Discuss whether you agree, disagree or partially agree and explain why.

- Curiosity matters more than talent.
- Creativity will always beat memorisation.
- Being unconventional is a strength.
- Science needs more human voices.
- Imagination is essential in adult life.

Part 2. Discuss the following questions.

- 1.If Einstein had social media today, what would he post about?
- 2.What everyday problem could Einstein solve better than anyone you know?
- 3.If you could ask Einstein one question, what would it be?
- 4.What advice do you think he would give modern students?

REFLECTION

Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

- 1.One part of Einstein's mindset I want to carry forward is...
- 2.In my adult life, curiosity looks like...
- 3.One area of life where I want to "think differently" is...

WRAP-UP TASK (OPTIONAL HOMEWORK)

Write a short essay (180–220 words): "Why curiosity matters in learning" or record a 2-minute spoken reflection: "A time when imagination helped me solve a problem."

$$E = mc^2$$