

Something worth watching

Speeches, cities and the people who make them. Choose the easier option or a challenge in each topic. These are suggestions: you do not need to watch everything.

1 / Commencement speeches

START HERE · B1+ with transcript support

Steve Jobs: Stanford commencement address (2005)

A personal story about leaving college and discovering that an apparently impractical interest could become useful later. A clear narrative makes this the more accessible speech option.

Watch just the first story, about connecting the dots. Stop when he introduces his second story. You can return to the rest another day.

[Open the video and Stanford's prepared text](#)

TRY A CHALLENGE · B2 stretch, with the text beside you

J.K. Rowling: The benefits of failure (Harvard, 2008)

Rowling describes a difficult period in her life and explains what failure taught her. The language is richer and more figurative than in the first option.

Try a short extract. In the transcript, find "So why do I talk about the benefits of failure?" Read and listen from there until she moves to her second theme, imagination. The full speech is optional.

[Open Harvard's video and transcript](#)

The level labels are suggested entry points, not official CEFR ratings. Understanding the main message is enough for a first listen.

Your city. Your neighbourhood.

2 / Places and community

START HERE · B1 starting point

Talking About Your Hometown

Oxford Online English models ways to introduce your city, describe it and explain what you like about living there. Useful language for talking about Vigo or any place you know.

Start with sections 1-3: introducing your hometown, background information and what you like about it. Watch one section at a time; the lesson text is on the same page. The website's quiz is not part of this homework.

[Open the video lesson and lesson text](#)

TRY A CHALLENGE · B2 stretch

Candy Chang: Before I die I want to...

A public-art project turns an abandoned wall in New Orleans into a place where neighbours share their hopes. A short talk about community, public space, loss and what matters to people.

Watch the full short talk (about six minutes). The photos help you follow the project. Use the English transcript if you need it.

[Open the TED talk and transcript](#)

[Alternative transcript: scroll to Audio script](#) (the exercises on that page are optional).

A simple way to use a transcript

1. Listen once for the main idea. You do not need every word.
2. Replay a short section while reading the English text. Look up only words that block your understanding.
3. If you want, keep two or three useful phrases and say them aloud. Listen again to that section without the text.

No written answers or AI account are needed for these suggestions. Video links need an internet connection; a transcript can also be read on its own.