**WEEK 4: Giving a Presentation**

You’re going to watch a TED Talk by Graham Hill called *Less Stuff, Less Happiness*

Graham Hill is a North American journalist who studied architecture and design. He founded *TreeHugger.com*, a website dedicated to promoting a lifestyle that doesn’t harm the planet and to making complex environmental issues easier to understand. He is currently the CEO of *LifeEdited*, a project devoted to living well with less. His idea is that we can actually be happier with fewer things, so long as we are able to edit our lives in smart, practical ways.

**1 Answer these questions**

1 Hill promotes a lifestyle that doesn’t harm the planet. What sorts of actions or choices do you think he recommends/discourages?

2 How easy is it for you to get rid of stuff?

**2 Read the sentences**. Match the words in bold with their definitions below

1 Even though I had everything money could buy, my happiness **flat-lined**.

2 I **crowd-sourced** advice on the best green holiday options.

3 Deleting my old photographs **cleared the arteries** of my computer.

4 The simple design avoided **extraneous** elements that would detract from the clean look.

5 The recycling campaign has helped to **stem the inflow** of waste into our local landfill site.

6 The bowls are three different sizes, so they **nest**, making them easy to store.

A reduce the inward movement

B via the internet, asked a lot of people

C not relevant or related

D stopped increasing, but did not decrease

E removed unnecessary stuff from the inner part

F fit one inside the other

**3 Watch the video**

Number the following topics in the order Graham Hill discusses them

Examples of situations where we live comfortably with less

Three ways to live little

The personal storage industry

The contents of the box discussed

Hill’s 420 square foot (39 m²) apartment and how he got it.

Check your answers with your partner

**Watch the video again** and answer these questions

1 How much has the typical living space in the USA increased in the past 50 years?

2 What are the consequences of our interest in shopping?

3 What is the equation he is suggesting?

4 What are the 3 main approaches to “live little”?

**4 Discussion:**

Hill uses examples from the US. Can you compare the issue of the amount of material possessions in your country today and 30 or 50 years ago?

Complete the sentences and discuss them with your partner

If I had to reduce my possessions, I would start by getting rid of …

My mantra is …

My … is/are digitized.

Is there any point in Hill’s talk you don’t agree with?

**5 Presentation Skills**

What is the aim of Graham Hill’s talk?

1 to entertain by telling an interesting and funny personal story

2 to give new information

3 to persuade using objective facts

4 to inform and ask the listener to make a specific decision or choice

5 to persuade by making an emotional appeal

Using props: a well-chosen prop

* Stimulates the audience’s curiosity and builds anticipation
* Provides a visual focus
* Helps clarify or reinforce an idea
* May help the audience relate to your ideas
* Can help the audience visualize a complex idea or process
* Serves as an example
* Is not distracting
* Makes your talk memorable

How does Hill’s box build anticipation or reinforce his ideas?

Is the box distracting to the audience? Why? Why not?

What other props might have he used to make the same point?

Work in pairs. **Prepare a 2-minute presentation.** Choose one of these topics. Think of a prop you could use.

Air pollution Alcohol and health

The benefits of regular exercise Cosmetic surgeries

The lives of factory employees Single use plastic

Zero waste The use of 3D printing in biology/medicine

Alternative sources of energy Veganism

Wildfires (The Amazon, Australia) Eating disorders (Anorexia, bulimia)

Allergies Organic farming

Work with your partner on your presentation. Think of an introduction, argument, conclusion, and the prop. When ready, find a new partner and present your talk to them.

**6 Speaking:** Work in small groups

What is a necessity? What is a luxury?

Car clothes dryer home air conditioning microwave oven

Home computer internet access

Think of one luxury in your life – something you could do without but miss it.

**7 Discussion**

Who would you take on a one-year desert island adventure? On the tropical island, there is fresh water, plenty of fruit, trees for shade, but nothing more.

1 What would you need to take?

2 Who would you take with you – a biologist, physicist, doctor or engineer? Who would be the most useful and why?

**8 Exam Practice:** Choose the correct word

\_\_\_\_\_ nuclear energy is today regarded as green energy.

1. Even b) Never

She has made a study of chemical fertilizers and \_\_\_\_ effect on the environment.

1. its b) their

Compared with \_\_\_\_ sources of energy, nuclear energy is very efficient.

1. other b) others

He doesn’t eat fish, and I don’t eat it \_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. either b) neither

Especially the silicon \_\_\_\_ is used in the manufacturing process is absolutely harmless.

1. what b) that

Fuels \_\_\_\_ as coal, natural gas and oil are called fossil fuels.

1. for b) such

Help is needed for families \_\_\_\_ homes were destroyed in the hurricane.

1. who’s b) whose

They are already battling to eradicate illnesses \_\_\_\_ as malaria or tetanus.

1. such b) like

It always feels cold in this room, \_\_\_\_ in summer.

1. even b) either

\_\_\_ speaking as much as possible, you will improve your English.

1. By c) That

For several years, Jordan, Lebanon and \_\_\_\_ countries have been dealing with severe refugee crisis.

1. other b) another

My essay consists of two parts: water and \_\_\_ chemical properties.

1. it’s b) its

Sources:

*Keynote: Advanced Student’s Book*. National Geographic, 2019.