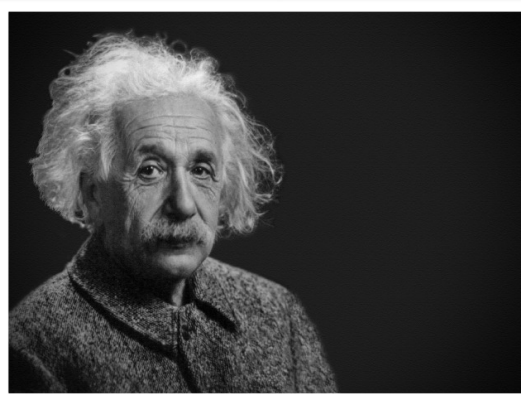


WEEKLY ENGLISH PRACTICE

THE LIFE OF ALBERT EINSTEIN

Coach John looks at the life of Albert Einstein, the theoretical physicist.

Albert Einstein was born in Ulm, Württemberg, Germany on 14th March 1879. He was born into a Jewish family and had a sister called Maja.



Surprisingly, Einstein didn't really like school that much. But of course he loved maths and science. Einstein did **struggle** with language though, and didn't really talk until he was four years old. And he **failed** exams in French, chemistry and biology. One teacher told him that he "would **not amount to anything**." A Stanford economist actually used the term 'Einstein Syndrome' to describe it and other people like Einstein, when really intelligent people's speech is delayed.

His father owned his own electronics company where Einstein learned about science and electronics. His was bought his first **compass** when he was five years old. The curious child that he was, Einstein was fascinated by it and wanted to discover why the **needle** always pointed north.

Einstein said an important moment in his early life was when he read a book about geometry.

He called this book his 'sacred little geometry book'.

When he was 15 years old, He and his family moved to Milan in Italy. He then went to the Polytechnic Academy in the Swiss city of Zurich. In 1900, he graduated with a degree in physics and maths.

Einstein wasn't always a scientist. After graduating he actually decided to go into teaching but he couldn't find any jobs.

He got a job at the Patent Office in Berlin. This allowed him to look at other people's inventions. While working here, he also worked on his own theories and discoveries that would one day become world-famous.

Einstein moved to America in 1933 because of the increasingly difficult lives of Jewish people living in Germany at the time. This was because of Hitler and the Nazi party who were against Jewish people. When in America, he took a position at the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton and took US citizenship.

Einstein died at the age of 76 from heart failure on 18 April 1955. He did want to combine all of his ideas together with one big theory before he died, but sadly never managed to. After his death, his brain was actually removed and kept for research to try and work out how he was such a genius.



by ECP coach

John Hird

Word list

struggle: (v) to work hard to solve a task or problem

fail: (v) to be unsuccessful (in doing):

not amount to anything: (phrase) to not become successful or important

compass: (n) an instrument for determining directions.

needle: (n) a small, slender, rodlike instrument, usually of polished steel

milestones: (n) a significant or important event in history

gifted: (adj) having special talent or ability

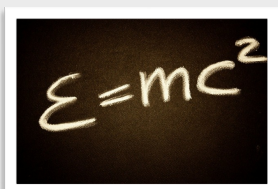
thrive: (v) prosperous and growing

judge: (v) to form a judgment or opinion of; decide upon critically

Let's chat about that!

1. Give a summary of the text to your coach and/or classmates.
2. What was surprising about Einstein's time at school?
3. What events in his early life sparked his interest in science?
4. Why did Einstein move to the USA?
5. What happened to his brain when he died?
6. Read the text on page 2. In your own words explain Einstein's Theory of Relativity.
7. What is the 'Einstein Syndrome' of speech development in children?
8. Which famous Einstein quotes do you like? Talk about what they mean to you.

TWO EINSTEIN THEORIES



Einstein developed his theory of relativity in 1905. This theory explained how gravitation affects interstellar objects and the surrounding space.

The idea is that the faster an object moves, the slower time appears to pass on that object.

In Einstein's equation $E=mc^2$, 'c' is the speed of light which is constant and seen as the fastest speed possible, 'E' is energy and 'm' is mass. The equation explains how time and distance may change due to the 'relative' or different speed of the object and the observer.

EINSTEIN SYNDROME DEFINED

Most parents are concerned when their children don't reach

critical developmental **milestones** concurrently with their peers. But if there's one milestone in particular that makes parents nervous when it isn't reached, it's learning to speak. Delays in speech can range in severity from not talking at all to finding it difficult to pronounce certain words and being challenged to form sentences.

Einstein Syndrome is the term used to characterise a child who has a speech delay but is simultaneously **gifted** in other areas requiring analytical thought. Children with Einstein Syndrome eventually speak with no constraints or indications of their slow start, while at the same time remaining more advanced in other areas.

Thomas Sowell, an American economist, coined the concept of Einstein Syndrome. Sowell

observed that, whereas language delay is considered a symptom of autism, there are many children who suffer language delay but aren't autistic. And amongst them are children who later on **thrive**, becoming very successful and highly respected analytical thinkers.

ALBERT EINSTEIN QUOTES

- "Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world."
- "Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved through understanding."
- "A person who never made a mistake, never tried anything new."
- "Everybody is a genius, but if you **judge** a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."

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