

The Technology of Storytelling

TEDTalks

A video talk by Joe Sabia

You are going to watch a 4-minute video of a man named Joe Sabia, who explains how storytelling has evolved over time, and the role innovation has played in the changes. As you watch the video the first time, your objective should be to understand the general message of the video; don't worry too much about details during this first viewing.



Video link: http://www.ted.com/talks/joe_sabia_the_technology_of_storytelling.html

After watching the video once, you should complete the following series of tasks, which will help you to understand the video in greater detail and to improve your English communication skills.

1. Listening Comprehension: Understanding the TEDTalk

In this talk, Joe Sabia walks the audience through a series of technological innovations that have affected the way that stories are told. Look at the following forms of storytelling that Joe Sabia mentions and put them in chronological order by writing the correct number in the boxes.

	the Internet
	film in color
	the book
	film on DVD
	children's pop-up book
	film with sound
	pictures of hunting scenes on cave walls
	film in motion
	film on VHS

These activities were created thanks to collaboration between Ziggurat Language Services, S.L. & Mother Tongue, S.L.

2. Express Yourself

Joe Sabia compiles different forms of storytelling. Which of those formats do you enjoy the most? (For example, do you prefer reading books or watching films? Do you prefer going to the cinema or watching films at home? If you watch films at home, are they on VHS, DVD or from the Internet?) Which genres do you like? Do you think that the Internet can be considered a form of storytelling? Justify your answers.

3. Language Practice

In this talk, Joe Sabia uses several connectors of time to organize his ideas in chronological order. Read the following paragraph and fill in the blanks with the time expressions from the box.

when	later (x2)	then	during	while	after that
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_____ Shannon arrived in Los Angeles, her friends were waiting for her with a big sign that read *'Welcome home!'*. _____ the drive to Shannon's apartment, they asked her a lot of questions about her trip to Brazil. Shannon was too tired to feel like talking, so she told them she would answer all of their questions _____ they looked at the pictures over dinner. They dropped her off, and said they would meet her at the restaurant _____. Shannon went up to her apartment and unpacked her suitcase. _____ she had a quick snack. _____, she decided to take a shower and lie down. Of course, Shannon fell asleep and woke up two hours _____, when her friends called her because she hadn't shown up at the restaurant.

4. Writing

Imagine you have to tell a story to a group of children. Choose one of your favorite tales and tell the story using some connectors from the previous activity. Make sure to start the story with *'Once upon a time'* and finish it with *'And they lived happily ever after'*.

Answer Key

1. Listening Comprehension

9	the Internet
6	film in color
2	the book
8	film on DVD
3	children's pop-up book
5	film with sound
1	pictures of hunting scenes on cave walls
4	film in motion
7	film on VHS

2. Express Yourself

Sample answer:

I prefer watching a film to reading a book. I like reading but I think that the visual component of films gets me more involved in the story. I guess I am influenced by the fact that my favorite genres are action and adventure, and with the sound effects and everything, they are much better to watch on the big screen. I prefer watching films at the cinema to watching DVDs at home. The big screen makes a huge difference, in my opinion. I enjoy the full experience much more. I agree with Joe Sabia that the Internet is a means for explaining stories. Several social movements and initiatives have started on the Internet, and there are many people publishing mini stories on Facebook and Twitter every day, just to name a few popular sites.

3. Language Practice

When Shannon arrived in Los Angeles, her friends were waiting for her with a big sign that read 'Welcome home!'. **During** the drive to Shannon's apartment, they asked her a lot of questions about her trip to Brazil. Shannon was too tired to feel like talking, so she told them she would answer all of their questions **while** they looked at the pictures over dinner. They dropped her off, and said they would meet her at the restaurant **later**. Shannon went up to her apartment and unpacked her suitcase. **Then** she had a quick snack. **After that**, she decided to take a shower and lie down. Of course, Shannon fell asleep and woke up two hours **later**, when her friends called her because she hadn't shown up at the restaurant.

4. Writing

Sample answer:

Once upon a time there was a little girl named Little Red Riding Hood. One day, her mother asked her to take some food to her grandmother, who was ill. While Little Red Riding Hood was walking in the woods, a wolf came up to her and asked where she was going. The girl replied that she was going to her grandmother's house. Then, the wolf ran to the grandmother's house and knocked on the door. Little Red Riding Hood's grandmother let the wolf in and he ate her up, he put on her nightgown and got into bed. Soon after that, Little Red Riding Hood arrived at her grandmother's house. When she got into the house, she noticed that her grandmother looked different and said, 'Grandma, what big ears you have!' 'All the better to hear you with!', said the wolf. After several questions, Little Red Riding Hood said, 'Grandma, what big teeth you have!' 'All the better to eat you with!', shouted the wolf, who tried to eat Little Red Riding Hood. The girl cried out for help, and a woodcutter who was nearby came to help her. He hit the wolf and saved Little Red Riding Hood and her grandmother. And they lived happily ever after.