

# ALFRED EINSTEIN

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## THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Albert Einstein was a German-born physicist, although most people probably know him as the most intelligent person who ever lived. His name has become part of many languages when we want to say someone is a genius, as in the phrase, "She's a real Einstein". He must have been pretty brainy to discover the Theory of Relativity and the equation  $E=mc^2$ .

In 1999, 'Time' magazine named Einstein as the Person of the Century. No one could have guessed this would happen when he was at school. He was extremely interested in science but hated the system of learning by heart. He said it destroyed learning and creativity. He had already done many experiments, but failed the entrance exams to a technical college.

He didn't let this setback stop him. When he was 16, he performed his famous experiment of imagining traveling alongside a beam of light. He eventually graduated from university, in 1900, with a degree in physics. Twelve years later he was a university professor and in 1921, he won the Nobel Prize for Physics. He went on to publish over 300 scientific papers.

Einstein is the only scientist to become a cult figure, a household name, and part of everyday culture. He once joked that when people stopped him in the street, he always replied: "Pardon me, sorry! Always I am mistaken for Professor Einstein." Today, he is seen as the typical mad, absent-minded professor, who just happened to change our world.

245 words  
Flesch Kinkaid 9.0

**SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the words from the article on the left with their synonyms on the right. Are your answers the same as other students'?

*Paragraphs 1 and 2*

- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. probably  | a. mastermind  |
| 2. genius    | b. very        |
| 3. brainy    | c. predicted   |
| 4. guessed   | d. most likely |
| 5. extremely | e. ruined      |
| 6. destroyed | f. intelligent |

*Paragraphs 3 and 4*

- |                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 7. setback        | g. forgetful   |
| 8. alongside      | h. answered    |
| 9. papers         | i. next to     |
| 10. figure        | j. problem     |
| 11. replied       | k. personality |
| 12. absent-minded | l. reports     |

**PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article.

- |                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. the most intelligent person | a. this would happen          |
| 2. He must have been pretty    | b. name                       |
| 3. No one could have guessed   | c. brainy                     |
| 4. the system of learning      | d. stop him                   |
| 5. failed the entrance exams   | e. who ever lived             |
| 6. He didn't let this setback  | f. over 300 scientific papers |
| 7. traveling alongside a beam  | g. by heart                   |
| 8. He went on to publish       | h. to a technical college     |
| 9. a household                 | i. absent-minded professor    |
| 10. the typical mad,           | j. of light                   |

## LISTENING GAP FILL:

Albert Einstein was a German-\_\_\_\_\_, although most people probably know him as the most intelligent person \_\_\_\_\_. His name has become part of many languages when we want to say someone is a genius, \_\_\_\_\_, "She's a real Einstein". He must have been pretty brainy to discover the Theory of Relativity and the \_\_\_\_\_.

In 1999, 'Time' magazine named Einstein as the Person of the Century. No one \_\_\_\_\_ this would happen when he was at school. He was \_\_\_\_\_ science but hated the system of learning by heart. He said it destroyed learning and creativity. He had \_\_\_\_\_ experiments, but failed the \_\_\_\_\_ a technical college.

He didn't \_\_\_\_\_ him. When he was 16, he performed his famous experiment of imagining traveling alongside \_\_\_\_\_. He eventually graduated from university, in 1900, with \_\_\_\_\_. Twelve years later he was a university professor and in 1921, he won the Nobel Prize for Physics. He \_\_\_\_\_ over 300 scientific papers.

Einstein is the only scientist \_\_\_\_\_ figure, a household name, and part \_\_\_\_\_. He once joked that when people stopped him in the street, he always replied: "Pardon me, sorry! Always \_\_\_\_\_ Professor Einstein." Today, he is seen as the typical mad, \_\_\_\_\_, who just happened to change our world.

## CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs in italics.

Albert Einstein was a German-born *physics / physicist*, although most people probably know him as the most intelligent *people / person* who ever lived. His name has become part of many languages when we want to say someone is a genius, *as / so* in the phrase, "She's a real Einstein". He must have been pretty *brain / brainy* to discover the Theory of Relativity and the equation  $E=mc^2$ .

In 1999, 'Time' magazine *naming / named* Einstein as the Person of the Century. No one could have *guessed / guesses* this would happen when he was at school. He was extremely interested in science but hated the system of learning by *heart / stomach*. He said it destroyed learning and creativity. He had already done *many / much* experiments, but failed the entrance exams to a technical college.

He didn't let this *setback / setting* stop him. When he was 16, he performed his famous experiment of imagining traveling alongside a beam of *sound / light*. He eventually graduated from university, in 1900, with a *degrees / degree* in physics. Twelve years later he was a university professor and in 1921, he won the Nobel Prize for Physics. He went on to *publish / publishing* over 300 scientific papers.

Einstein is the only scientist to become a *culture / cult* figure, a household name, and part of everyday culture. He once *joke / joked* that when people stopped him in the street, he always replied: "Pardon me, sorry! Always I am *mistake / mistaken* for Professor Einstein." Today, he is seen as the typical *madly / mad*, absent-minded professor, who just happened to change our world.

**SPELLING:**

These jumbled words are from the text. Spell them correctly.

*Paragraph 1*

1. most people yboprlba know him
2. someone is a esnugi
3. He must have been pretty aniryb
4. the ognuatie  $E=mc^2$

*Paragraph 2*

5. No one could have sdugese
6. He was extremely interested in cincsee
7. learning and tvtarceyii
8. failed the aeennrtc exams to a technical college

*Paragraph 3*

9. He didn't let this katecsb stop him
10. traveling jealnsogd a beam of light
11. He eventually egaudrtad from university
12. He went on to lsibpuh over 300 scientific papers

*Paragraph 4*

13. become a cult rugfei
14. a usohdleho name
15. part of everyday ceutrul
16. mad, absent-dindem professor

## PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) someone is a genius, as in the phrase, "She's a real Einstein". He must have been pretty brainy to discover
- ( ) heart. He said it destroyed learning and creativity. He had already done many experiments, but failed the
- ( ) the Theory of Relativity and the equation  $E=mc^2$ .
- ( ) Einstein is the only scientist to become a cult figure, a household name, and part of everyday
- ( ) happen when he was at school. He was extremely interested in science but hated the system of learning by
- ( ) mistaken for Professor Einstein." Today, he is seen as the typical mad, absent-minded professor, who just
- ( ) He didn't let this setback stop him. When he was 16, he performed his famous experiment of imagining
- ( ) culture. He once joked that when people stopped him in the street, he always replied: "Pardon me, sorry! Always I am
- ( ) physics. Twelve years later he was a university professor and in 1921, he won the Nobel Prize for Physics. He went on to publish over 300 scientific papers.
- ( ) entrance exams to a technical college.
- ( **1** ) Albert Einstein was a German-born physicist, although most people probably know him as
- ( ) happened to change our world.
- ( ) In 1999, 'Time' magazine named Einstein as the Person of the Century. No one could have guessed this would
- ( ) the most intelligent person who ever lived. His name has become part of many languages when we want to say
- ( ) traveling alongside a beam of light. He eventually graduated from university, in 1900, with a degree in

## SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With your partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. German-born a was Einstein Albert physicist

---

2. He brainy pretty been have must

---

3. named Einstein as the Person of the Century 'Time' magazine

---

4. interested extremely was He science in

---

5. creativity said destroyed and He it learning

---

6. this stop He let setback him didn't

---

7. a alongside traveling light of beam

---

8. over went 300 on scientific to papers publish He

---

9. the to cult is scientist a Einstein only become figure

---

10. mad typical the professor minded-absent

---

## **EINSTEIN DISCUSSION:**

### **STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)**

1. What do you know about Einstein?
2. Would you like to have met Einstein?
3. What would you like to know about Einstein and why?
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **EINSTEIN DISCUSSION:**

### **STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)**

1. What did you learn from this text about Einstein?
2. What questions would you like to have asked Einstein?
3. What would his answers have been to those questions?
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

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## EINSTEIN SURVEY:

Write five questions about Einstein in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

**Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.**



## HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find more information about Einstein. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. EINSTEIN POSTER:** Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Einstein. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all find out similar things?

**4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about Einstein. Include an imaginary interview with him. Write about what he did every day and what he thought about.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to Einstein. Ask him three questions about his life. Tell him how important he is in today's world. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your "Einstein expert" partner(s) will try and answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## SYNONYM MATCH:

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. probably  | a. most likely |
| 2. genius    | b. mastermind  |
| 3. brainy    | c. intelligent |
| 4. guessed   | d. predicted   |
| 5. extremely | e. very        |
| 6. destroyed | f. ruined      |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- |                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 7. setback        | g. problem     |
| 8. alongside      | h. next to     |
| 9. papers         | i. reports     |
| 10. figure        | j. personality |
| 11. replied       | k. answered    |
| 12. absent-minded | l. forgetful   |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. the most intelligent person | a. who ever lived             |
| 2. He must have been pretty    | b. brainy                     |
| 3. No one could have guessed   | c. this would happen          |
| 4. the system of learning      | d. by heart                   |
| 5. failed the entrance exams   | e. to a technical college     |
| 6. He didn't let this setback  | f. stop him                   |
| 7. traveling alongside a beam  | g. of light                   |
| 8. He went on to publish       | h. over 300 scientific papers |
| 9. a household                 | i. name                       |
| 10. the typical mad,           | j. absent-minded professor    |

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Look at the text on page 2.