



lingoda



Einstein



READING

LEVEL
Advanced

NUMBER
C1_1053R_EN

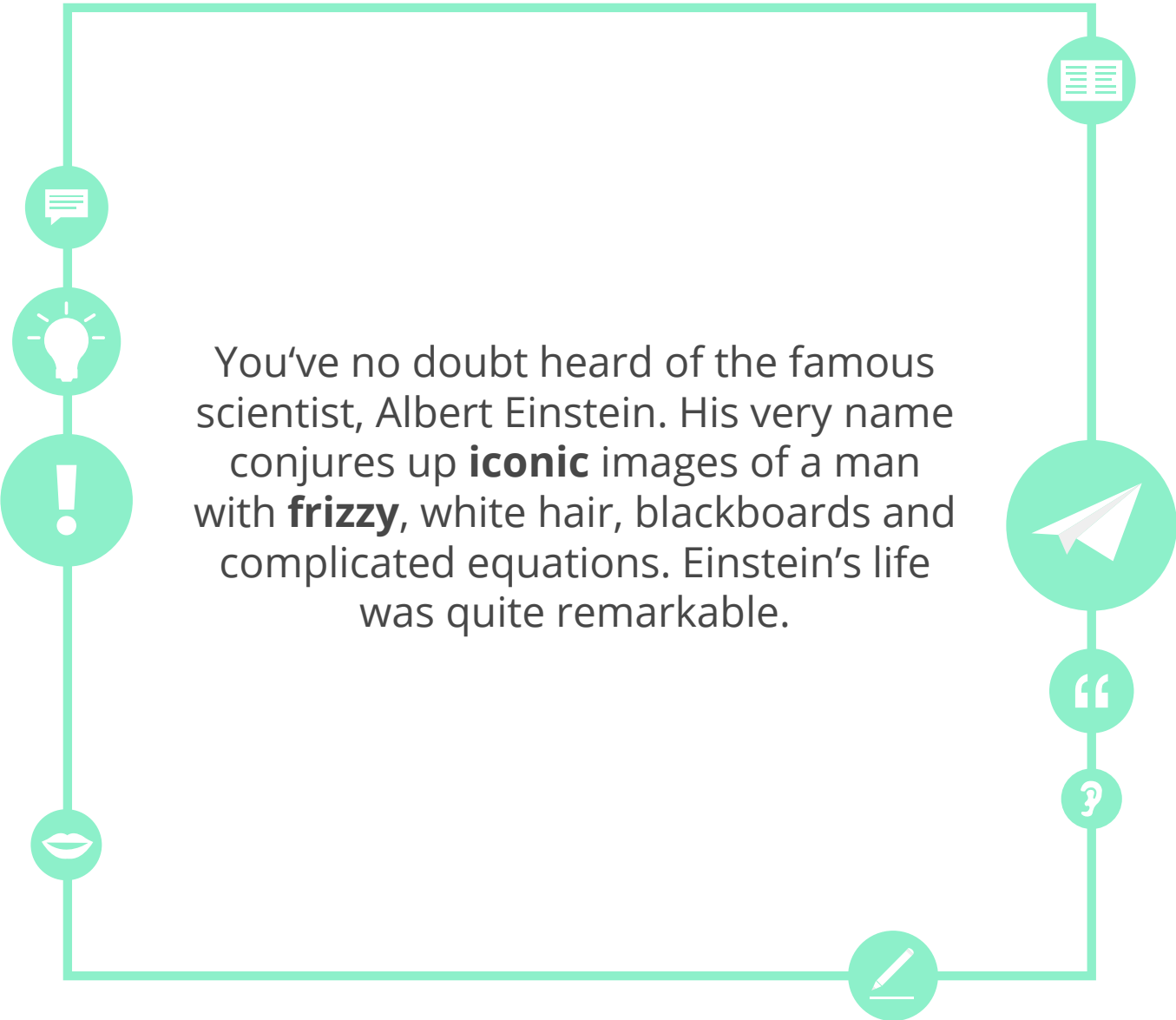
LANGUAGE
English



Goals

- Can read and understand a complex text about Albert Einstein.
- Can participate in a discussion about identity, art and science and convincingly present my own opinions.





You've no doubt heard of the famous scientist, Albert Einstein. His very name conjures up **iconic** images of a man with **frizzy**, white hair, blackboards and complicated equations. Einstein's life was quite remarkable.



School memories

Apparently, Einstein didn't have the smoothest of rides during his school days. He frequently clashed with authority.

How was your own time at school? What are your memories of school? Science class?





Discuss

Look at the picture below. Unfortunately, the study of science sometimes gets a bad reputation. People think of it as being boring, all about equations and formulas. What do you think about science? Why is it important in our world? Do you like to read about science?



environment

health

discovery

unknown

experiment



Who was Einstein?

What do you already know about Einstein?
Can you think of any discoveries he made?



Albert Einstein



Ask anybody to name a famous scientist, and it's a pretty good bet that Einstein's name will come near the top of the list. He is known as one of, if not the greatest thinker and scientist of the 20th century.

Something you might not know about Einstein however is the fact that, despite being born in Germany, he actually renounced his German citizenship at the young age of seventeen. Einstein thought outside the box even in his earlier years; as a pacifist, renouncing his citizenship allowed him to avoid being called-up for German military service. Instead of staying in Germany, he moved to Switzerland and attended university there.



Albert Einstein



It's often said that Einstein was a bit of a dunce at school, and this thought has probably provided great comfort to many a struggling student. However, sadly this is a rumour.

In actual fact, Einstein always performed extremely well at school, especially in science and mathematics where his work was two or three years ahead of his peers. Perhaps this myth was born from the fact that Einstein once performed badly in the French part of a school entrance examination. Even though he had done exceptionally well in other sections of the test, he was obliged to resit the exam and pass every subject in order to be allowed to attend the school.



Vocabulary and phrase review

a good bet

to resit

military service

myth



pacifist

peers

**to think outside
the box**

dunce



Identity and nationality

Now we will take a closer look at identity and nationality.



1

Einstein was born in Germany. What are some of the common stereotypes about Germany in your home country? What are some of the common stereotypes about your own country?



Identity and nationality

Now we will take a closer look at identity and nationality.



1

Einstein was born in Germany. What are some of the common stereotypes about Germany in your home country? What about your own home country? What are some of the common stereotypes about it?



2

Einstein renounced his nationality at the age of 17. Why did he do this? Could you ever imagine yourself renouncing your nationality? How important is nationality to your own identity? Ask your teacher to explain their viewpoint to you.



Identity and nationality

Now we will take a closer look at identity and nationality.



1

Einstein was born in Germany. What are some of the common stereotypes about Germany in your home country? What about your own home country? What are some of the common stereotypes about it?



2

Einstein renounced his nationality at the age of 17. Why did he do this? Could you ever imagine yourself renouncing your nationality? How important is nationality to your own identity? Ask questions and find out how your teacher feels about this.



3

Some people claim to have no nationality and identify as citizens of the world. Imagine a world without borders or nationalities. What would be the advantages and disadvantages of such a world? Would you like it?



Albert Einstein

Einstein also had problems with authority at school. He was frequently at loggerheads with teachers. Reflecting in later life upon his time at school, Einstein said that it was the method of rote learning that was inflicted on students which he found particularly problematic. He argued that this approach to education killed imagination and stifled the spirit of learning and creative thought.

Einstein thought creatively; he once claimed never to have come upon any of his discoveries through the process of rational thinking. As well as being a scientist, he also had a huge passion for music and played the violin.



Albert Einstein

Our society often places the arts and science in two opposing camps, but Einstein believed in the power of creative thought, claiming that in fact the greatest scientists are also artists. Probably his most famous statement on this topic is an assertion that 'imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world, stimulating progress, giving birth to evolution.'



Vocabulary and phrase review

to be at loggerheads with

**to stifle
something**

rote learning

opposing camps



**to reflect on
something**

**rational
thinking**

to embrace

evolution



Quick recap

Summarise Einstein's story so far in 5 different sentences. Use as much new vocabulary as you can.



Art versus science

Einstein claimed that the greatest scientists were also artists. Think about society today. How are art and science viewed?

In what ways, if any, are they in conflict and in what ways do they complement one another?





Discuss

Read Einstein's quote below. Think about art and science, is this true for both fields? Do you agree with Einstein? How important are imagination and knowledge in your own life?

//

Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world, stimulating progress, giving birth to evolution.

//



Education

Einstein had some problems with the education system with which he was raised. If you could change three things about the education system in your country, what would they be?

subjects

exams

rote learning

structure

values



Taking action

Write a letter to your local government outlining your ideas for change within your country's education system. Use your answers from the previous activity to help. Try to lay down a really convincing argument.

A rectangular box containing a template for a letter. The template consists of several horizontal lines for writing. There are short horizontal lines at the top right, middle left, and bottom left, likely indicating where to place the recipient's address, the sender's address, and the date respectively.



Albert Einstein

Einstein remains a fascinating figure, not only because of his genius and his incredible achievements in the field of science, but also due to his eccentricity. One little known, odd fact about Einstein is that despite having been unable to swim, he was a huge fan of sailing. He himself admitted that he was a terrible sailor, although sailing had been a hobby of his since university. He also didn't like to wear socks, and avoided them as much as possible. Indeed, once during his time at Oxford University, he wrote a letter to a friend in which he boasted about having got away without wearing socks during his time there, despite it being a very formal environment.



Albert Einstein

Despite having developed theories which shook the world of science to its foundations and earned him a Nobel prize, Einstein rarely spent time in the science lab. This is perhaps one of the most inspiring things about him. Instead, he was more likely to sit at his desk and work things out mentally. In fact, he produced some of his most important theories while working at a tedious day job as a patent clerk in Switzerland. This was work he had taken during his twenties in order to have a steady income.



Vocabulary and phrase review

mentally

genius

eccentricity

sailor

**to reflect on
something**



to boast

tedious

to shake something to its foundations



Working 9 to 5!

Einstein's job as a patent clerk was tedious, but he used the time to his advantage!



1 Have you ever had a boring job? What was it like?

2 Did you put up with it for years or move on quickly? If this has never happened to you, say what you think you would do.

3 What advice would you give to someone who finds their job boring?



An inspirational figure

Reflect on what you have learnt about Einstein in this lesson, taking into account what you already knew.

In what ways is Einstein an inspirational figure? What lessons can we learn from him?



Four truths and a lie

In the text we learnt a few odd facts about Albert Einstein, who was quite an eccentric character. Think of some interesting facts about your own life. Tell your teacher four true facts and invent one false fact.

Your teacher has to guess which is false. Then it's your teacher's turn!



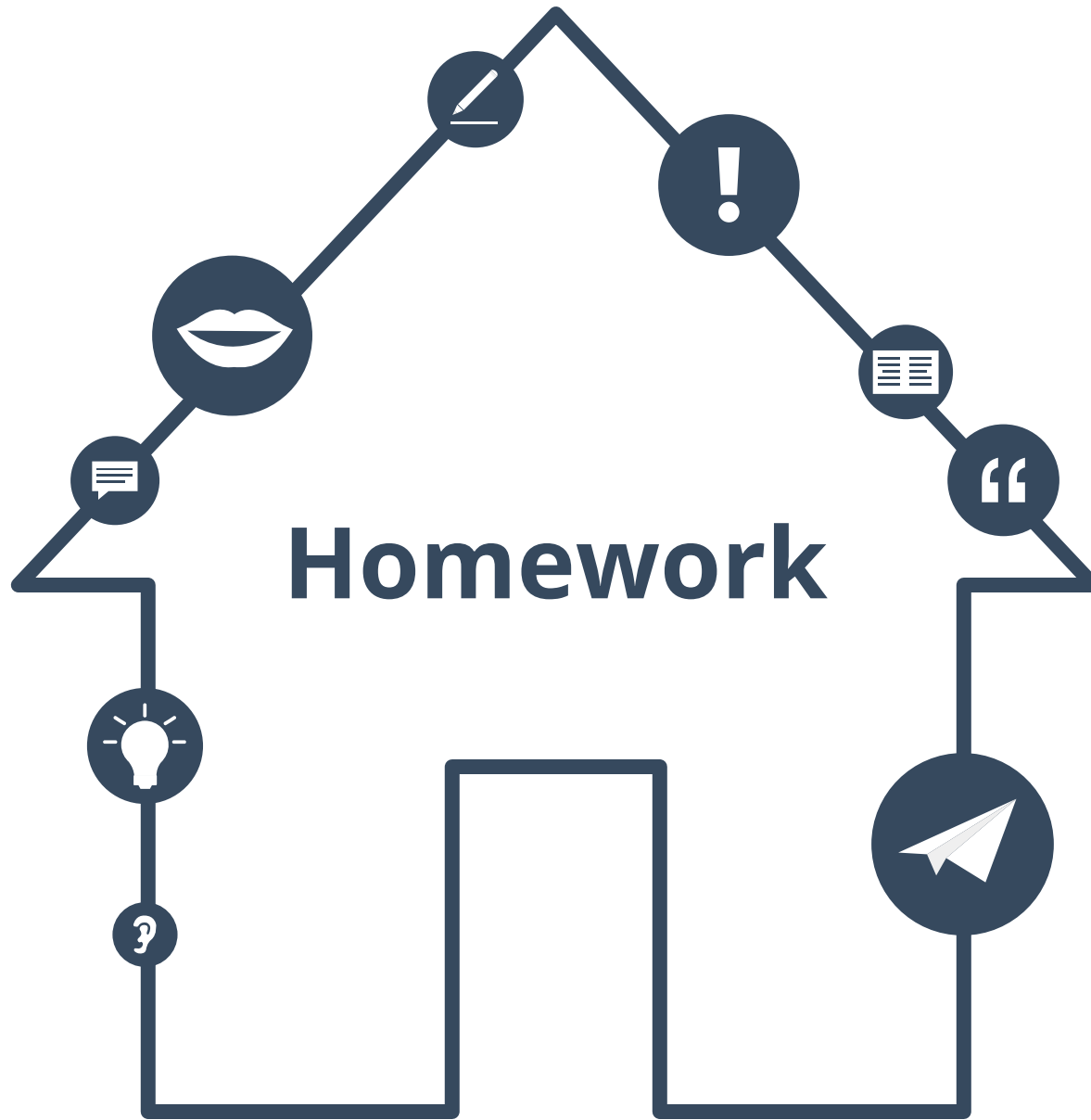


Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!

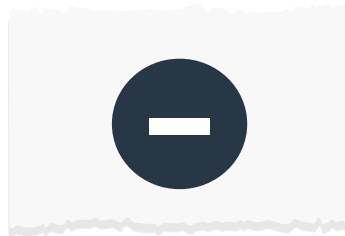






Reflect

How did you find this lesson? Which parts did you find easiest and which were hardest? Note any particular challenging parts here as well as areas that you found very straightforward.

A vertical sheet of white paper with a spiral binding on the left side and horizontal lines for writing, intended for taking notes during the reflection process.



Write an e-mail

Imagine you are at university with Albert Einstein. You write an email home to a friend who knows nothing about Einstein, describing this eccentric character you have met. What is he like? What does he say? Do you like him? Do you find him inspiring?

-□×

To

Subject

Dear Friend,

Wait 'til I tell you about the person I met last week!



About this material



Find out more at
www.lingoda.com

This material is provided by

lingoda

lingoda Who are we?



Why learn English online?



What kinds of English classes do we offer?



Who are our English teachers?



How do our English certificates work?



We also have a language blog!