

Building Fluency

Introduction

The aim of this activity is not to understand every word in the video, but to gradually build the vocabulary and expressions that educated native speakers use when discussing complex topics.

Before watching the video, read through the **Key Vocabulary** and make sure you understand the meaning of the words and phrases. This will make it much easier to follow the main ideas without having to stop every time you hear unfamiliar language.

After watching the video, look at the **Useful Language** section. These are natural expressions taken directly from the video that you can use to express opinions, speculate, explain uncertainty and discuss complex issues in your own English.

Finally, discuss the **Discussion Questions**. Try to use as much of the vocabulary and useful language as possible. Don't worry about using every expression perfectly—the goal is to begin turning passive vocabulary into active vocabulary through meaningful conversation.

Can Science Defeat Death?



Introduction

Cryonics is the practice of preserving people at extremely low temperatures after they have been declared legally dead, in the hope that future medical advances may one day be able to repair their bodies and bring them back to life. While many scientists believe that this is unlikely to be possible with current or foreseeable technology, supporters argue that it offers at least some chance of survival compared with traditional burial or cremation. The topic raises fascinating questions about science, medicine, ethics, law and the future of humanity, making it an excellent subject for practising advanced English vocabulary and discussing complex ideas.

Key Vocabulary

English	Deutsch
cryogenic preservation / cryopreservation	Kryokonservierung
informed consent	informierte Einwilligung
ethical questions	ethische Fragen
controversial	umstritten
to declare someone legally dead	jemanden offiziell für tot erklären
assets	Vermögenswerte
descendants	Nachkommen
a procedure	ein Verfahren / eine Prozedur
metabolic rate	Stoffwechselrate
to reverse damage	Schäden rückgängig machen
to put money aside	Geld zurücklegen
reintegration	Wiedereingliederung
affordable	erschwinglich
a research procedure	ein Forschungsverfahren
bylaws	Satzung
longevity	Langlebigkeit
to be cremated	ingeäschert werden
to be buried	begraben werden

Watch the Following Video



Storing dead people at -196°C

2.7M views • 2 years ago

Tom Scott

In Switzerland, there's a new cryonics company: and they invited me to have a look around. I had questions: legal, practical, and ...

4K CC

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85BykUan6pw>

Useful Language

English	Deutsch
I think that's a controversial opinion.	Ich glaube, das ist eine umstrittene Ansicht.
The questions I do have are practical and legal.	Die Fragen, die ich tatsächlich habe, sind praktischer und rechtlicher Natur.
I think it's important to distinguish between...	Ich denke, es ist wichtig, zwischen ... zu unterscheiden.
It's very important to say that...	Es ist sehr wichtig zu betonen, dass ...
There is currently no technology that can...	Es gibt derzeit keine Technologie, die ... kann.
There is no technology on the horizon that could...	Es gibt keine Technologie in Aussicht, die ... könnte.
One of the goals is to...	Eines der Ziele ist es, ...
We would never claim that...	Wir würden niemals behaupten, dass ...
No one can say if or when...	Niemand kann sagen, ob oder wann ...
It might turn out that...	Es könnte sich herausstellen, dass ...
From a legal perspective...	Aus rechtlicher Sicht ...
From a practical point of view...	Aus praktischer Sicht ...
The evidence simply isn't there yet.	Die Belege dafür gibt es bisher einfach noch nicht.
The chances of success are extremely low.	Die Erfolgsaussichten sind äußerst gering.
Whether that's realistic remains to be seen.	Ob das realistisch ist, bleibt abzuwarten.

English	Deutsch
That's ultimately a matter of personal choice.	Das ist letztlich eine persönliche Entscheidung.
The long-term consequences are impossible to predict.	Die langfristigen Folgen lassen sich nicht vorhersagen.
Time will tell whether this approach works.	Ob dieser Ansatz funktioniert, wird die Zeit zeigen.
The potential benefits have to be weighed against the risks.	Die möglichen Vorteile müssen gegen die Risiken abgewogen werden.

Discussion Questions

1. If cryopreservation became affordable and scientifically possible, do you think you would ever consider it? Why or why not?
2. Do you think humans should be trying to defeat death, or is death simply a natural part of life?
3. How comfortable would you feel paying for a service that has no guarantee of ever working?
4. If people could regularly live to 150 or even 200 years old, how do you think society would change? Would it be a good thing overall?
5. After watching the video, do you find yourself more convinced by the idea of cryonics, or more sceptical? What had the biggest influence on your opinion?

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