

The Progress Bar

https://www.ted.com/talks/daniel_engber_how_the_progress_bar_keeps_you_sane?language=en

A. Pre-listening exercises:

1. What vocabulary do you associate with computers? Brainstorm as many ideas as you can.
2. How have computers changed in your life-time?
3. What do you think may change with computers in the future?
4. How do you feel about computers in terms of how they affect your day-to-day life?
5. When you think of the 'progress bar' what springs to mind?

B. Vocabulary:

Connect 1 -9 with a – i:

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|----------------------------|--|
| 1. A ledger | a. To lessen in force or the intensity of something. |
| 2. Percent done indicators | b. ***** |
| 3. Asterisks | c. The recording of business transactions. |
| 4. Survey | d. To touch or manipulate something. |
| 5. Tractor beam | e. A graphical technique which allows the user to monitor the progress of processing a task. |
| 6. To reconceptualise | f. To ask people's opinions about things. |
| 7. To dull the pain | g. To focus your attention. |
| 8. To fiddle | h. To form a concept. |
| 9. To mitigate | i. Something you do to minimise the effect of something on you. |

C. Listening:

a) Listen and decide if these sentences are true or false. If they are false write the correct answer:

1. The classic one that's been used for years is a vertical bar. T / F
2. Something happened in the 70s that is sometimes referred to as "the software crisis".
T / F
3. So you might have a graphical countdown watch. T / F
4. This graduate student named Brad Myers, in 1995, decided he would study this. T / F
5. When you see that progress bar, it sort of locks your attention in a tractor beam. T / F
6. So if you have a progress bar that just moves at a variable rate. T / F
7. The progress bar at least gives you the vision of a beginning, the middle, and an end.

T / F

8. I think in some ways, it mitigates the fear of death. **T / F**

b) Now listen again and write down any phrasal verbs you hear:

D. Post-listening exercises:

1. What have you learnt?
2. Use the phrasal verbs that you identified to show you understand the meaning.
3. What new vocabulary have you heard?
4. Did you find it easy or hard to understand? Why or why not?
5. Did you find it interesting or boring? Why or why not?