

Unit 2: Technology, Lesson C

Before you watch

A Do you multitask a lot? Look at the daily tasks below. Which two can you do at the same time? How many of these tasks can you do all at once? Write a few sentences.

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| cleaning | listening to an audio book | watching television |
| cooking | listening to music | working |
| driving | talking on the phone | working out |
| gardening | washing dishes | |

While you watch

A Circle the correct sentence endings.

1. Tara and Ned are . . .
 - a. talking about the problems with multitasking.
 - b. talking about work.
 - c. talking about how great multitasking is.
2. Ned . . .
 - a. really isn't good at multitasking.
 - b. is interested in learning how to multitask.
 - c. may be better at multitasking than he thinks.
3. Tara . . .
 - a. read an article that said multitaskers and non-multitaskers are the same.
 - b. read an article that said multitaskers were more efficient.
 - c. read an article that said multitaskers were less efficient.



Tara and Ned

B Watch the video. Check (✓) true or false.

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Ned works with headphones on all the time. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 2. Multitasking is not really an essential skill. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 3. Ned thinks that you can't possibly concentrate on more than one thing. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |

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| 4. Tara read that if you're multitasking, you're doing things badly or not at all. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 5. Tara read that "high multitaskers" were faster. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 6. Multitasking might be harmful. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 7. Ned thinks that it is better to do many things at once. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 8. Doing one thing at a time is less efficient. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 9. People who think they are bad at multitasking are often pretty good at it. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 10. Ned might be better at multitasking than he thought. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |

After you watch

A Complete the conversation with the responses in the box. Write the letters a–e.

- A. Did you know that young children can't really multitask?
B. Yeah. _____
A. But they get better at multitasking when they're older. _____
B. That's interesting. So I wonder which age group is the best at multitasking.
A. _____
B. Really? I guess that's not too surprising. I mean, nowadays, young people have a lot of things to keep in their heads.
A. It's true. _____
B. However, we all reach an age where we just can't do it anymore. I mean old people have trouble multitasking, right?
A. Yeah. _____

- a. Supposedly their developing brains just can't focus on more than one thing at a time.
- b. Apparently, when you get older, your brain is too full of different things and possibilities to be able to skip from one thing to another successfully.
- c. Invariably, we expect young people to be better at doing many things at once. So I guess society just trains them to be able to do it.
- d. Evidently, people between the ages of eighteen to twenty-five are the best multitaskers.
- e. Theoretically, children's brains develop more as they grow.

B What do you think about multitasking? Do you think it's possible to do many things at the same time and do them all well? Is multitasking important or inefficient? Should people be allowed and encouraged to multitask at work? Write a paragraph telling what you think about multitasking.
