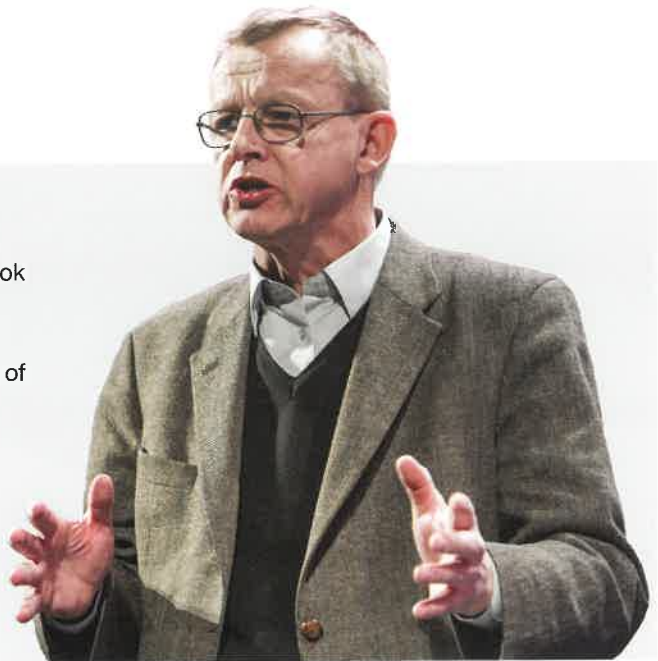


## TED TALKS

**HANS ROSLING** began his career as a physician, spending many years in rural Africa tracking a rare paralytic disease. He co-founded Médecins Sans Frontières, Sweden, wrote a textbook on global health, and as a professor of International Health at the Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, initiated key international research collaborations. He was best known for his unique style of presenting economic data. He developed this style through his non-profit organization, Gapminder, with a piece of breakthrough software, which Google purchased in 2007.

Hans Rosling's idea worth spreading is that even technology that we take for granted, such as the washing machine, is important because it frees people's time for more educational and life-changing pursuits.



### BACKGROUND

**1** You are going to watch a TED Talk by Hans Rosling called *The magic washing machine*. Read the text about the speaker and the talk. Then work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- 1 What were Hans Rosling's interests?
- 2 What enabled him to give distinctive presentations?
- 3 Can you think of any other devices / machines apart from the washing machine that have freed people's time for more productive pursuits?

### KEY WORDS

**2** Read the sentences (1–6). The words in bold are used in the TED Talk. Match the words with their definitions (a–f). Then work in pairs and answer the questions.

- 1 What machines or technology are you **mesmerized** by?
  - 2 One definition of being below the **poverty line** is not being able to afford the necessities to live a healthy life. Can you think of any other definition?
  - 3 Why is it important to subject economic data to close **scrutiny**?
  - 4 Which **fossil fuel** is the most polluting?
  - 5 What do you think are the main causes of child **mortality** in the world?
  - 6 Where in the world would you find a **favela**?
- a the point at which people are considered to be poor  
b to have your attention completely captured by something  
c material formed from ancient plants and animals (coal, oil, gas) that are burned to produce energy  
d the number of deaths  
e (from the Portuguese) an area of very poor and crowded housing  
f very close and critical examination


### AUTHENTIC LISTENING SKILLS

#### Prediction

Thinking about what a speaker is going to say about a topic before they speak helps you as a listener in several ways:

- It gives you a reason to listen.
- You begin to think about the topic-related vocabulary that you are going to hear.
- You form ideas that may or may not be confirmed by the speaker.

These things help before you listen, but once the speaker has begun speaking, listen carefully to what they are saying. If you continue to predict while listening, it may distract from what you are actually hearing.

- 3a** Work in pairs. Look at the Authentic listening skills box. You are going to watch a TED Talk called *The magic washing machine*. Write four key words related to washing clothes. Then compare your words. Did you write the same words?
- 3b**  17 Work in pairs. Why do you think the invention of the washing machine was so significant? Discuss with your partner. Then listen to the introduction to Hans Rosling's talk and answer the questions.
- 1 Does Hans Rosling give or suggest the reason why the invention of the washing machine was so significant?
  - 2 Did he use any of the words you wrote in Exercise 3a?