

# Extraordinary Success

**Speaking:** The top 5 most intelligent people in your country:

1)                      2)                      3)                      4)                      5)

Describe your list to your partner / group with a small description about each person and why they are so intelligent.

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## How intelligent are you?

Later in the lesson, you are going to watch and read about Daniel Tammet, known as the boy with the incredible brain because of his fantastic ability to memorise, work out and deal with numbers. Before watching, look at the following mathematical tasks below; try to complete them using only your mind.

## Work out the following sums in your head:

$$3 \times 3 = \qquad 81 \div 9 = \qquad 145 - 64 =$$

$$143 + 182 = \qquad 34 \times 21 = \qquad 740 \div 37 =$$

$$24 \times 24 \times 24 \times 24 = \qquad 12 \div 67 =$$

## How many numbers can you memorise?

**1284058372830475732920485759302013**

**Video 1:**The following video introduces us to Daniel Tammet. Watch the video and answer the questions below

**Vocabulary from the video: What do the following words mean?**

To know something off by heart      preposterous      to surpass

### Questions

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AbASOcqc1Ss>

What are the two sums Daniel is asked to work out?

1) \_\_\_\_\_      2) \_\_\_\_\_

Why does Daniel point to the table / what does he see? (3 minutes 20 seconds)

How long does it take Daniel to learn a language?

What is the language test Daniel must do?

What is Pi? And what does Daniel do with Pi?

## THE LIFE OF DANIEL TAMMET



Tammet was born **Daniel Paul Corney** and \_\_\_\_\_ in East London, England, the eldest of nine children. He suffered epileptic seizures as a young child, which he subsequently outgrew following medical treatment. At age twenty-five, he would eventually be \_\_\_\_\_ with Asperger syndrome by Professor Simon Baron-Cohen of the Autism Research Centre at Cambridge University. Tammet is one of fewer than a hundred "prodigious savants" \_\_\_\_\_ Dr. Darold Treffert, the world's leading researcher in the study of savant syndrome.

Tammet is a "savant", an individual with an astonishing, extraordinary mental ability. An estimated 10% of the autistic population - and an estimated 1% of the non-autistic population - have savant abilities, but no one knows exactly why. A number of scientists now hope that Tammet might help us to understand better. Professor Allan Snyder, from the Centre for the Mind at the Australian National University in Canberra, explains why Tammet is of particular, and international, scientific interest. "Savants can't usually tell us how they do what they do," says Snyder. "It just comes to them. Daniel can. He describes what he sees in his head. That's why he's exciting. He could be the Rosetta Stone."

Tammet has never been able 1)\_\_\_\_\_ 9 to 5. It would be too difficult to fit around his daily routine. For instance, he has to drink his cups of tea at exactly the same time every day. Things 2)\_\_\_\_\_ to happen in the same order: he always brushes his teeth before he has his shower. "I 3)\_\_\_\_\_ to be more flexible, but I always end up feeling more uncomfortable. Retaining a sense of control is really important. I like to do things in my own time, and in my own style, so an office with targets and bureaucracy 4)\_\_\_\_\_ wouldn't work."

Instead, he has 5)\_\_\_\_\_ a business on his own, at home, writing email courses in language learning, numeracy and literacy for private clients. It has had the fringe benefit of keeping human interaction to a minimum. It also gives him time to work on the verb structures of Mänti.

Read through the text above about the life of Daniel Tammet and complete the different sections below.

1<sup>st</sup> paragraph (complete the gaps with best word)

1. Raised / grew up    2. Diagnosed    3. According to
- 

2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph (comprehension)

Why are some people born “Savants?”  
How is Daniel different from other Savants?

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3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph – Gap fill

- |    |               |             |                |
|----|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1  | a. to do      | b. to work  | c. to make     |
| 2  | a. should     | b. are able | c. have        |
| 3  | a. have tried | b. tried    | c. I had tried |
| 4. | a. just       | b. simply   | c. however     |
| 5. | a. set up     | b. set in   | d. set on      |

## **Video 2: Daniel attempts to learn Icelandic in 1 week**

Could you learn a new language in 1 week?

Look at the following Russian phrases; try to remember all of them. You have 2 minutes. After 2 minutes, have a small conversation with your partner in Russian.

**Privet** (Hello)    **Kak dela?** (How are you?)

**Spasibaa u vas?** (Fine and you?)    **Kak Vas zovut?** (What's your name?)

**Ja teb'a l'ubl'u**(I love you)

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### **Vocabulary: What do the following phrases mean?**

Learn from scratch

to pull something off

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**Daniel learns Icelandic: Watch the video and answer the questions.**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SmsV3nrN8k&feature=endscreen&NR=1>

(starts at 1 minute 30)

### **Questions**

How does Daniel work out the big mathematical questions?

What does Daniel's teacher think about learning Icelandic?

How does Daniel's teacher describe Daniel one day before?

What does Daniel say about his Icelandic learning experience in the interview?

“The line between profound \_\_\_\_\_ and profound \_\_\_\_\_ seems really a \_\_\_\_\_ thin one”

## Vocabulary: Success

Look at the words in the box below. Complete the sentences with the most appropriate word from the box. You may have to change the form of the word.

Go under	Logo	Morale	Booming
Innovative	Merge	Under-perform	Diversify

1. Businesses must make a profit each month or they could \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. Toyota really \_\_\_\_\_ last year. They announced record losses of \$1.5 billion in the last business quarter of 2009.
  3. Apple has a distinct \_\_\_\_\_, every time I see one I think of their company.
  4. During the early 2000's, the economy was \_\_\_\_\_, but now businesses are cutting back in order to survive.
  5. The key to Nintendo's success is its ability to \_\_\_\_\_. It created the Wii, a revolution in the video game world.
  6. Car Manufacturers must have a high \_\_\_\_\_ for its workers, if they are low motivated, then they will not hit their monthly targets.
  7. McAfee and Intel \_\_\_\_\_ last week. Many experts believe that together they will now dominate the computer market.
  8. The key to Citroen's success has been their advertising campaign. They have produced and developed some really \_\_\_\_\_ ideas for their adverts, like the car ice skating on the lake
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**IDIOMS FOR SUCCESS: Read through the following idioms and work out their meaning**

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search ID: term158

1.

"Well, here we are again."

Idiom: **to go back to square one**

Meaning:

Sentence: the business plan totally failed so the company *went back to square one* and thought of some new designs.

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v10004b023 fotosearch.com



v10004b023 fotosearch.com

Idiom: **to go from strength to strength**

Meaning:

Sentence: Apple has *gone from strength to strength* since they started in 1976

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Idiom: **to get off to a flying start**

Meaning:

Sentence: Most business don't *get off to a flying start*, it takes time for the business to develop and grow.

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search ID: ena0103

Idiom: **to go through the roof**

Meaning:

Sentence: The price of petrol *has gone through the roof* recently. In England, it is now £1.50 per litre.



Idiom: **to lose your touch**

Meaning:

Sentence: Critics believe that Mark Zuckerberg and Facebook are *losing their touch* because the number of users is starting to decline

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search ID: bron1008

Idiom: **to nosedive**

Meaning:

Sentence: BP's reputation nosedived in 2010 because of the big oil spill