



Adding Details to Nouns

A series of exercises based on Angela Duckworth's TED Talk

[Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance](http://www.ted.com/talks/angela_lee_duckworth_grit_the_power_of_passion_and_perseverance)

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1. Comprehension

Before You Watch

A. Answer the following questions in groups or as a class.

1. What characteristics are most important for a student's success?
2. How can a student acquire these characteristics?
3. Based on the title of Professor Duckworth's talk, what do you think "grit" means?

B. Match the following bolded words and phrases with their meanings.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. The athlete has perseverance . _____ | a. survey |
| 2. Is it easy to predict the weather? _____ | b. quit |
| 3. He dropped out of school. _____ | c. spelling competition |
| 4. They completed the questionnaire . _____ | d. intelligence quotient (a measure of intelligence) |
| 5. The problem emerged suddenly. _____ | e. become visible or apparent |
| 6. She scored highly on the IQ test. _____ | f. the strength to continue with a difficult task |
| 7. He competed in a spelling bee . _____ | g. make a guess about the future |

After You Watch

C. After you watch the [Ted Talk](#), answer these two questions by checking (✓) *True* or *False*.

- | | True | False |
|--|-------|-------|
| 1. Talent is the best predictor of personal success. | _____ | _____ |
| 2. Duckworth is not sure how best to develop grit in students. | _____ | _____ |

2. Adding Details to Nouns

A. **Adjectives.** Add adjectives from the box to the words below to form phrases from the TED Talk.

Watch the video as many times as necessary (http://www.ted.com/talks/angela_lee_duckworth_grit_the_power_of_passion_and_perseverance).

strongest	demanding	seventh	good	permanent
different	private	honest	public	standardized

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. a _____ job | 6. _____ companies |
| 2. the _____ answer | 7. _____ looks |
| 3. _____ graders | 8. a _____ condition |
| 4. a _____ test | 9. _____ contexts |
| 5. my _____ performers | 10. _____ school |

B. Noun modifiers. Add nouns from the box to the words below to form phrases from the TED Talk.

test	graduate	homework	learning
family	work	school	military

1. _____ assignments
2. _____ school
3. _____ training
4. _____ outcomes
5. _____ income
6. a solid _____ ethic
7. _____ scores
8. the _____ year

C. Prepositional phrases. Complete the sentences from the lecture with words from each box. Use each word/phrase at least once. You may use some words more than once. The first one is done as an example.

<u>Prepositions</u>	<u>Objects (nouns/noun phrases)</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • about • at • between • for • from • in • of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • my best and my worst students • their students • my strongest performers • management consulting • very long-term goals • grit • building grit • risk • a motivational perspective

1. I left a very demanding job in management consulting.
2. IQ was not the only difference _____.
3. Some _____ did not have super high IQ scores.
4. What we need in education is a much better understanding of students and learning _____.
5. Which teachers will be the most effective at improving learning outcomes _____?
6. Grit is passion and perseverance _____.
7. The most shocking thing _____ is how little we know about building it.

8. Grit is important in school, especially for kids _____
of dropping out.
9. "Growth mindset" is a great idea _____.

D. Adjective Clauses. Complete the sentences about the lecture with words from each box (A and B). Use each word/phrase at least once. Add commas if necessary. The first two are done as examples.

A (Relative Pronouns)	B (Clause Content)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that • who • whom • which • where • whose ideas • ∅ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is a psychologist • Duckworth studied cadets (young soldiers) • Duckworth discusses • psychologists need to do • was even more demanding • is the idea that perseverance can be learned • are taught in 7th grade math • do not succeed

1. Angela Duckworth left a demanding job in management consulting for a job that was even
A B
more demanding; teaching.
2. Duckworth, who is a psychologist, studied grit in children and adults.
A B
3. Duckworth explains that the topics _____
can be difficult for students.
4. The data show that there are many talented people _____
because they do not follow through on their commitments.
5. At the West Point Military Academy _____
grit had a significant impact on the dropout rate.
6. Carol Dweck developed the concept of "growth mindset," _____
_____.
7. Carol Dweck _____ teaches at Stanford
University.
8. According to Duckworth, there is still a lot of research _____
_____ about developing grit.

E. **Putting it all together.** Complete the sentences below by adding details to the bolded nouns. Use adjectives, noun modifiers, prepositional phrases or adjective clauses.

1. Grit is a **factor** _____.
2. **Kids** _____ are more likely to succeed.
3. **Success** _____ usually requires more than talent.
4. **Teachers** _____ might have more success in helping _____ **students** to succeed.
5. **Experiences** _____ may help young people to develop grit.
6. _____ **experiences** in life may *prevent* young people from developing grit.
7. One gritty effort I remember was the **time** _____.

F. **Extra.** Answer one of the following questions in 3-5 sentences.

1. Do you think grit can be taught? Explain?
2. In addition to grit and talent, what are other factors of success?

Answers

1B

1. f, 2. g, 3. b, 4. a, 5. e, 6. d, 7. c

1C

1. false, 2. true

2A

1. demanding, 2. honest, 3. seventh, 4. standardized, 5. strongest, 6. private, 7. good, 8. permanent, 9. different, 10. public

2B

1. homework, 2. graduate, 3. military, 4. learning, 5. family, 6. work, 7. test, 8. school

2C

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. in management consulting | 6. for very long-term goals |
| 2. between my best and worst students | 7. about grit |
| 3. of my strongest performers | 8. at risk |
| 4. from a motivational perspective | 9. for building grit |
| 5. in their students | |

2D

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. that was even more demanding | 6. , which is the idea that perseverance can be learned |
| 2. , who is a psychologist, | |
| 3. that are taught in 7 th grade math | 7. , whom Duckworth discusses, |
| 4. who/that do not succeed | 8. Ø/that psychologists need to do |
| 5. , where Duckworth studied cadets, | |

2E

Answer will vary.